

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 30th November, 1903, at Liverpool, England, the wife of D. MULLEN, Chinese Imperial Postal Service, Shanghai, of a son.

On the 25th December, Christmas Day, at George Road, Singapore, the wife of ED. DIBBY WILLOUGHBY, of a daughter.

On the 10th January, 1904, at No. 5, Seymour Road, the wife of S. H. JOSEPH, of a son.

On the 10th inst. at 'Lewknor,' the Peak, the wife of MARCUS WARRE SLADE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 5th January, 1904, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. Père Le Gall, WALTER ANDREW CROMBIE, to ESTELLA CORINNE PEREAULT.

On the 13th January, at All Saints' Church, Blackheath, London, by the Rev. S. Martyn Bardsley, vicar of St. Alfege, Greenwich, assisted by the Rev. H. Welsford Snell, vicar of All Saints', HERBERT PRICE, of Hongkong and Manila, to ETHEL MILDRED, third daughter of Engineer Rear-Admiral Sir JOHN DURSTON, K.C.B., Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet. [By Cable.]

DEATHS.

On the 4th January, 1904, at Solbjerg, Denmark, suddenly, MARTIN BOHDE, late of Shanghai.

On the 4th January, 1904, at Pootung, Shanghai, HELEN MARGARET, second daughter of H. M. and ALICE THOMPSON, aged 2 years.

On the 4th January, 1904, at Kobe, HENRY BUCKINGHAM LUCAS, aged 66 years.

On the 5th January, 1904, at Kobe, EVELYN KINGSTON, daughter of W. A. and A. L. BRADLEY, aged 8½ years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 11th ult. arrived per s.s. *Ernest Simons* on the 12th inst.; and the English Mail of the 18th ult. is expected to arrive per s.s. *Malta* sometime to day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Several Russian war-ships are believed to be ice-bound at Vladivostock.

The price of corn at home has risen one shilling per-quarter in consequence of the Far Eastern situation.

Germany and the other Powers of the Triple Alliance have determined to observe strict neutrality in the event of hostilities between Russia and Japan.

According to *L'Echo de Chine*, telegrams from Seoul announce the arrival at Chemulpo of one U.S., two British, and two Russian cruisers, which will remain there until the end of the crisis.

The Chinese are stated by the *P. & T. Times* to be blocking the way in all railway enterprise now, including the Anglo-German line, as they allege any foreign railway is likely to cause them trouble just as the Siberian railway has.

The United States Cabinet has ordered Admiral Evans not to proceed to Japanese or Russian waters at present. Telegraphed instructions to Admiral Evans for his guidance in the event of hostilities enjoin that he is to observe the strictest neutrality unless American treaty rights are infringed.

The state of affairs in the North recently is well illustrated by the following telegram in a Japanese paper, dated Chefoo, 4th January:—"The Japanese cruiser *Naniwa* sailed for Sasebo this morning. The Russian gunboat *Gaidamak* arrived at Chefoo from Port Arthur yesterday, probably to watch the movements of the *Naniwa*."

The *N. C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent telegraphed on the 9th inst.:—"The United States Minister here has received instructions to observe a benevolent neutrality. As regards vessels in harbours liberal treatment will be accorded." Next day he telegraphed:—"The diplomatic ropes are parted, and everything now is considered by the Government to be of the most serious character."

The Chief Engineer of the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer *Kiautschou* was killed at Tanjong Pagat wharf, Singapore, on the 10th inst. A ventilator-cowl on board slipped from its sling and dropped on his head, fracturing his skull. We have been unable to discover any details about the unfortunate engineer except that his name was T. Ström. The *Kiautschou* left Hongkong for Europe on the 6th inst.

Dr. Morrison, the *Times* correspondent at Peking, says that the Chinese Minister to Tokyo has telegraphed to Prince Ching at the request of the Japanese Foreign Office, that the Russian reply to Japan is unacceptable, and unless Russia recedes, Japan will be compelled to resort to arms promptly. Japan therefore requests China to observe strict neutrality, taking special care against any aggression against foreigners in Shantung or Yunnan.

Two treaties between China and other nations have been consummated this week. A Japanese treaty for the opening of ports in Manchuria has been exchanged at Peking, while China having assented to Mr. Conger's request for the immediate signature of a protocol at Washington to be an equivalent of an exchange of ratifications, this step has been carried out. U. S. Consuls for Antung and Moukden have been selected already.

The *Japan Times* says in a leading article that Japan cannot possibly recede from her present position without a criminal betrayal of the vital interests of the nation.

Our Kobe Correspondent telegraphed on the afternoon of the 13th January that a prolonged conference was held on the previous day of the Japanese Ministers, Elder Statesmen, and Heads of Departments, presided over by the Emperor. The result of the conference was immediately telegraphed to the Powers and to the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg. The foreign representatives at Tokyo were also acquainted with the result. The decision is unknown, but is believed to be very grave.

It has been stated that 100 United States soldiers [?] drawn from the Manila garrison arrived at Chemulpo by transport on the 4th inst. Official news to Tokyo, however, gives the number of men who arrived at Chemulpo as only 36. The soldiers were to proceed to Seoul, where they will act as a Legation guard. A telegram from Seoul states that, in reply to a notification from the U.S. Minister in regard to the landing of the troops, the Korean Government said it saw no necessity for such a course being taken, as the U.S. Legation would be guarded by Korean troops in case of emergency. This account rather differs from the one describing the admitted inability of the Korean Government to keep order.

The *Japan Mail* writes:—"The United States representative in Seoul is reported to have intimated his intention not to attend the Korean Emperor's levée at the New Year. Dr. Allen's reason for this abstention is that he has failed to obtain audience of the Sovereign for the purpose of discussing the opening of Yong-ampho, and he therefore declines to make act of presence at the Court for any purposes of ordinary etiquette. It appears to us that this is a wise and warrantable attitude. If the Emperor of Korea declines to give audience to the representative of a Foreign Power in connection with important international questions, His Majesty cannot reasonably expect the slighted representative to attend purely conventional Court receptions."

The *Mercury's* correspondent says that the riot at Amoy on the 7th inst., started between a mob of 3,000 Chinese attending the races and the numerous gambling stands alongside the race track and the Indian policemen from Kulangsu. It has been proved that the Indian police interfered with the gambling and the women. At one time the mob charged the Grand Stand, and great fear was felt for the ladies and children present, but after a rush was made against them by the foreign gentlemen, armed with sticks and bars, the mob scattered and order was restored. The mob pulled up the railings around the track, and used them as weapons. The Chinese officials present at the races did all in their power to quiet the mob, and great credit is due to Capt. Keng Han-chen, who is in charge of the garrison at the back of the Race Track. It was by his promptness in bringing his soldiers on the ground that the ladies and children escaped unhurt, for these soldiers escorted ladies, children and men to their boats. A good many of the foreigners were badly treated by the mob, two of them being seriously injured about their heads. The row was started by the Indian policemen, and it was considered by many that the Captain Superintendent did not show sufficient tact in handling his men.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 11th January.)

At last we receive apparently authentic information of the nature of the last Russian Note to Japan. As will be seen, the telegram conveying this ought to have reached us in time for our issue of Saturday, but was delayed in Japan by a censorship now evidently exercised over telegrams leaving that country. The fact that the telegram has passed the censor seems a guarantee that the news contained in it is correct. It appears therefore that we may accept it as certain that the Japanese Government, so far from looking on Russia's reply as satisfactory, only sees therein a Russian ruse to delay matters still further. In the *North China Daily News* of the 5th instant there appeared a telegram from Tokyo, bearing the date of the previous day, which stated that the Paris advices forecasting the unfavourable tenour of the Russian answer had reached Tokyo, where they encouraged the pessimistic views already held; and that it was confirmed that Japan's main contentions referred to Manchuria, while Russia's recent reply proposed the partition of Corea. It was added that Japan wishes to place Corea under her exclusive protection, but objects point-blank to partition. Our Kobe telegram bears out the statement as to the tenour of Russia's reply, and confirms its utter unacceptability to Japan. Still earlier we read in the *Kobe Chronicle*, whose information as to the progress of events recently in Japan has been very correct, that even then (a fortnight ago) it was feared that hope must be abandoned of a pacific settlement, since the Japanese Government had already come to the conclusion that Russia was not sincerely desirous of a peaceful solution. The *Chronicle* also said that, though diplomatic relations were not broken off, action was to be taken as if the result were beyond question. Hence we see a clear reason for the prohibition issued to the newspapers not to publish details of any strategical movements and for the establishment of a censorship of telegrams. Japan in fact has now taken every step, compatible with the preservation of peace, to show that Russia must act openly and choose whether she means to fight or not. According to a Berlin telegram Japan's preparations are making an impression in St. Petersburg. This telegram (which is dated the 4th instant, and is published in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*) notes a change of attitude of the whole Russian Press, and quotes the *Novoe Vremya* as condemning the Manchurian entanglement in principle for diverting Russia from her historic tasks in the Orient—presumably in the Near East and in Central Asia. But still we cannot attach so much importance as Berlin does to St. Petersburg or other Russian Press statements. The Press in Russia is more wont than that of any other country to say what the Government wishes it, or at least not to say what the Government does not wish said. A plainly procrastinating tenour in the Russian note to Japan is far more significant; so, too, is the diplomatic illness of Baron VON ROSEN, which now seems to be turning that gentleman into a hypochondriac, much to his Government's distress, no doubt. It would be of great interest to know how far the high Russian authorities really think it is safe to go in the game of putting Japan off. It has been suggested that they are only doing so in order to be able to "climb down" less ungracefully. In that case, surely they have gone to a more than dangerous length already?

The article in the London *Times* quoted by REUTER in his despatch of the 8th

instant will be read with the utmost attention. It will be noted that the leading English paper is reported as adopting a stronger tone than hitherto, and, while advocating first the negative policy of preventing other Powers from joining Russia against Japan, going on to declare directly that England cannot in any circumstance afford to see the dominion of the Far East pass into the hands of a single unfriendly Power or look on and see Japan obliterated or reduced to second-rate rank. We rejoice to see the opinions which we have consistently expressed thus supported by the weight of authority of the *Times*. The view expressed seems to us so undoubtedly correct and the principle involved so vital to the continuance of any British influence in North-east Asia that we should like to see the whole of the British Press at one in the matter. From recent telegraphic information it seems a fact that all the more responsible London journals are adopting this attitude, while public opinion has given some remarkable proofs of its trend in the last few weeks. It would be impossible to find a parallel in the expression of goodwill, and more than mere goodwill, toward an Asiatic nation that has been shown toward Japan of late. We are almost tempted to think that an inkling of the real meaning of the present crisis has penetrated into the minds of the British public, usually so unresponsive of right ideas regarding the Far East. If this is true, we cannot think of the Government shutting its eyes and letting pass so great an opportunity of repairing the countless errors of policy of the end of last century. This can be done without war, if it is done now; later it would mean war, and indeed it is difficult to see that we can in any case avoid being involved in a war should Japan and Russia be at blows to-morrow. We must, at the risk of being tedious, once again express the opinion that the United States are with ourselves vitally interested in stopping a struggle of Japan, single-handed, against the aggressions of Russia. If there is any meaning in the Chinese-American commercial treaty of last year, the States cannot wait for its interpretation until after a Russian triumph in the North. In his message to Congress on the 7th December President ROOSEVELT spoke of "an indispensable condition for the advance and development of our commerce in Manchuria—China has opened to foreign commerce the cities of Moukden and Antung." "The full measure of development which our commerce may rightfully expect," he continued, "can hardly be looked for until the settlement of the present abnormal state of things in the Empire, but the foundation for such a development has at last been laid." Where will that foundation be when Russia is predominant at Peking and Seoul? Doubtless buried under a heap of polite assurances pouring from the mouth of Count CASSINI. The magnetism or the terror of Russia must indeed be great if it can induce the two great English-speaking nations to watch her strike the deathblow to all further concern of theirs in North China and Corea.

(Daily Press, 13th January.)

Very much has been and is still being talked of the great value to civilisation of Russia's Trans-Siberian and Manchurian railway line, and it is even urged that the driving of Russia out of Manchuria would be a loss to the world in general, as destroying the railway communication between Paris and the Gulf of Pechili. It must be admitted that, with Manchuria non-Russian, the Trans-Siberian line could not well run

down to Dalny, but would have to run to its originally intended terminus of Vladivostock. In this event it is possible that Russia might drop the Trans-Siberian mail service, though should she decide to continue it the increased time would be comparatively slight, the railway journey being shorter, in partial compensation for the lengthened sea-voyage. The same applies to the passenger service. However, we will refer to a recent writer in the *Novoe Vremya* with regard to the actual value to civilisation of the great railway, and if we quote him at some length it is because we prefer the case to be judged by what a Russian critic has to say than by anything we could say ourselves. The writer in question says:—"And what is it that we export, or can export from China? Other nations 'make a great deal of money by the export of wool, tea, rice, and silks. Of these goods, only the more costly, tea and silks, can bear the charges of railway freight over ten thousand versts (6,600 miles). But the demand for silks is insignificant, and the carriage of tea by the railway is only artificially maintained by reducing the import duty on tea entering over the Manchurian frontier by six roubles the pud (£40 sterling per ton). If the import duty on tea were the same at the station, 'Manchuria' and at Odessa, every pound of tea would go by sea. That is to say, the Siberian and Manchurian lines, carrying, let us say, nearly the whole of the tea consumed in Russia, one and a-half to two million puds (24,000 to 32,000 tons), earn on the whole distance to Moscow five roubles per pud (£31 sterling per ton), or a total of seven and a-half to ten million roubles (£800,000 to £1,000,000 odd sterling), while the Customs Department loses from nine to twelve million roubles (£950,000 to £1,250,000 sterling). There is very little sense in such use of a railway! But, further, Russia would lose absolutely nothing if the tea now going via Dalny were to go by Vladivostock. The cost would not be a farthing more, while the railway freight would be lessened by the charge for about a hundred miles, this route being so much shorter railing. Consequently even for the carriage of tea this branch of the Manchurian Railway south to Port Arthur and Dalny is utterly useless to us." The *Novoe Vremya* writer goes on to show that the enormous expenditure on harbours, quays, warehouses, etc., is wasted commercially and will call for tremendous sums of public money for many years, while the aims are impracticable. The "civilising mission," in fact, to which Russia lays claim, does not appeal to this Russian, who has the insight to see that it is an empty expression, the programme of which will drain the country of enormous resources. An apposite criticism of the alleged mission may here be quoted from the Moscow correspondent of the *Standard*. He says:—"For half a dozen years past all the resources of the Empire have been steadily directed towards the Pacific. With what object? Assuredly none of those so assiduously promulgated by Russia; not in any disinterested 'civilising mission in the Far East': not with the unselfish desire to provide the 'commerce of the world' with a short cut across the hemispheres; not to champion the cause of the 'white man against the yellow peril.' Yet all these high-sounding 'missions' have been set forth as Russia's objects in spending upon an impracticable railway across two continent more treasure than is wasted in many a modern war." To resume: Of course—and this is a

side of the question on which the *Novoe Vremya* writer does not touch—throwing aside the pretence of a mission and frankly admitting that the dominion of the whole of Northern Asia is what she aims at, Russia can justify her more than lavish outpouring of money, raised with difficulty, and bringing back no visible return. But it is just this which Russia cannot afford to do. To have any chance of success, she must lay claim to a mission, must offer the world quicker mail and passenger service, and must ask only for ice-free harbours and facilities for the expansion of her commerce. Then she is confronted with the difficulty of answering questioners like that in the *Novoe Vremya*, who asks why all this money is being spent on the Manchurian railway and works connected with it, when Vladivostok will serve better and cost incalculably less. The *London Standard*, referring to the article which we first quoted, says that the Russian, thanks to the repeated utterances of responsible papers, all more or less in the same strain, is becoming accustomed to the idea of the abandonment of the Southern branch of the Manchurian line, from Kharbin to Port Arthur. Well, this may be so, but unfortunately the executive part of Russia, the Government, is little affected; though the *Standard* suggests that it may not be altogether without high official approval that the Russian Press is thus assiduously building a bridge over which Russia, if need arise, may effect a graceful retreat when the present position becomes untenable in Manchuria. This is an optimistic suggestion, which we should like to think true. The next weeks, if not days, should show what amount of reason there is in it. The loss of the Manchurian line is one which can be easily got over, by Civilisation. It was built by aggression and dishonest diplomacy. Many other very useful railway lines might be constructed by similar means in various parts of the world, for instance across Southern Asia. But we can hardly imagine that Civilisation, cynical as it is wont to be, would feel called upon to approve of them because they shortened mail and passenger traffic. There are other principles, more vital to the comity of nations, at stake in this Northern complication.

(Daily Press, 15th January.)

In his telegram of the 12th instant REUTER gives, on the authority of a Berlin announcement, what appears to be a very probable outline of Russia's latest proposals to Japan. As these are published in another column we need not detail them here. The gist of them is that Russia puts the Manchurian question entirely on one side, though ready to accord Japan and other Powers "representation for commercial interests" and to respect treaty rights granted by China in the province; with regard to Corea, she magnanimously allows Japan to deal with the South "economically and strategically as her interests may require" and to have "full commercial freedom" in the North—but neither in North nor in South Corea may Japan permanently occupy any fortress. Further a fifty-kilometre zone is to be drawn along the Yalu up to the Tumen, the river bounding Northern Corea; this zone (which is on the Korean side of the river, of course) is to be neutral. The publication of these proposals, if we may assume them to be authentic, finally reveals the long-suspected insincerity of Russia in her negotiations with Japan. There is no longer any reason for hoping that Russia intends to deal honestly. In fact, she has shown her hand. Yet, strange to say

(or perhaps not strange), a Berlin telegram of the 7th instant, forecasting such an offer to Japan, declared that the European Press did not expect any danger of war from movements in North Corea so long as Russia refrained from attacking Japan in South Corea, and Japan from attacking Russia in Manchuria. The final occupation of South Corea by Japan, said this Berlin telegram, is considered here a great success for Japan, and is, as it was foreshadowed by the whole German Press, heartily welcomed. Is it possible to imagine a more foolish statement? Let us take it in conjunction with the now announced proposals of Russia. That country is to remain in full possession of Manchuria, despite all previous promises, making only a few worthless "concessions" to the rest of the world. Japan is to be allowed to deal with South Corea economically and strategically as her interests may require, without, however, occupying permanently any fortresses—this is the "final occupation" of South Corea by the Japanese as welcomed by the German Press! North Corea is apparently to be exempt from Japan's economical and strategical dealings, but full commercial freedom is to be accorded to Japan, being apparently the gift of Russia. And along the Yalu there is to be a neutral zone in which neither Russia nor Japan is to establish fortresses. Taking these four points in order again, we may ask what Russia is offering to the Powers other than Japan in compensation for her broken pledges concerning Manchuria. Secondly, after the arbitrary division of Corea into two halves, how can the Russian proposal about the South be interpreted? The Continental Press has anticipated a complete Japanese occupation. But there are to be no permanent fortresses. How, then, could Japan, did she fall in with the reported offer, make any use of it? Thirdly, what is to be the future of Northern Corea? Is it to continue in the same ambiguous position as the whole of Corea is in now? Russia's own rights in it are left absolutely undefined. And lastly, why the neutral zone and the stipulation against either Russian or Japanese fortresses in it? Is the Port Hamilton agreement of seventeen years ago now dead, whereby, in return for the British evacuation of Port Hamilton, Russia gave China a guarantee not to occupy Korean territory under any circumstances whatever? Does Russia contend that this is void by the independence of Corea? The whole set of proposals seems to present an unparalleled example of bad faith, which is sufficient to warrant any nation refusing to accept another Russian promise hereafter.

Our Kobe correspondent's delayed telegram of Wednesday's date announces a conference at Tokyo on the previous day of the Ministers, the Elder Statesmen, and the heads of Departments, under the presidency of the Emperor of Japan, at which a decision was come to, at present unrevealed, but believed to be very grave, which was at once telegraphed to the Powers and to the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, as well as communicated to the foreign representatives at Tokyo. It seems hardly possible that this decision can refer to anything but the acceptance or refusal of Russia's proposals. Those who think that Japan, as well as Russia, is bluffing might look for another prolongation of the negotiations by Japan. To us it seems that the *Kobe Chronicle* in a recent number was right in insisting that Japan is not in a position to spend fifteen millions yen (as she is doing) to make a diplomatic bluff, and that those who hold the theory that she is bluffing are greatly mistaken in their reading of the

signs. The Russians do not, or not all of them at any rate, see a bluff on Japan's part. Our Port Arthur correspondent tells us that there the Russians say that the Japanese evidently want a war and are acting in the right way to get it. The falseness of that view is obvious, if natural. The Russian Press has, of course, done its best to represent the Japanese nation as one of Jingoism and fire-brands. But where has been the justification? No Western Power could have conducted the negotiations with more dignity and moderation. If what is meant is that Japan did not "climb down" and accept whatever Russia was kind enough to concede, then words have acquired a new signification. Japan has certainly not acted the despicable part of prostration before Russia for a small bribe. She has not been terrified by tall talk about vast numerical superiority and hopelessness of resistance. And yet she is not fighting her own cause alone, even though in Corea she is chiefly concerned. Therefore when the time comes we cannot believe that she will be found alone or that in isolation she will be allowed to sink from the ranks of Great Powers, to become a helpless spectator of Russia's pre-dominance throughout Northern Asia.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

(Daily Press, 14th January.)

In April and May, 1902, Sir FRANCIS LOVELL, C.M.G., paid a visit to Hongkong in connection with a mission to rouse Colonial interest in the work of the London School of Tropical Medicine, a school which owed its origin principally to Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, who some years ago, with the object of affording instruction in tropical medicine to medical officers in the Colonial service, invited the committee of management of the Seamen's Hospital Society to establish a school in connection with their hospitals. Sir FRANCIS LOVELL's mission was very successful. The Hongkong Government itself voted £100 a year for five years, as did the Straits and Federated Malay States Governments, while private subscriptions were most liberal. It was estimated at the time that the School would be richer by some £10,000 as the total result, but we do not remember having seen the exact figures since. Now again we hear that Sir FRANCIS LOVELL is to come out East, to make a second attempt to gather the necessary funds for carrying on what Sir PATRICK MANSON in an address on the 7th December last, on the occasion of Sir FRANCIS LOVELL's departure on his second tour, rightly called "an important and national enterprise." Dr. MANSON (to use once more the name by which he was formerly so well known in Hongkong) on that occasion spoke of what the School of Tropical Medicine has done, is doing, and hopes to do. With regard to education, he told his hearers that since October, 1899, 354 students had passed its portals—among the earlier students, we may note, being Drs. ATKINSON, STEDMAN, and J. G. THOMSON. Moreover the increase has been steady, and a larger proportion now stay for the full course of three months. The education is of an essentially practical kind. Sir PATRICK MANSON said that the students had been "in actual touch with the raw material, so to speak, the germ causes of disease, and the pathological effects of the operation of these germs on the human body" and had "seen, and most of them applied for themselves, the most recent methods of diagnosis." Such students

therefore come out to the tropics thoroughly abreast of the times, knowing what has been done and what requires to be done. "So it has come about that at the present day, instead of the two or three men who took a more or less languid interest in tropical disease some five or six years ago, a whole army of eager investigators has arisen, mainly composed of men educated or inspired by the Liverpool and London Schools."

Sir PATRICK enumerated a few notable triumphs by men from the London School, which has now been in existence a few months over four years. Firstly Dr. Low, present Superintendent of the School, showed how the blood-worm responsible for elephantiasis is introduced into the human body, i.e. by the proboscis of a mosquito. Then, the final proof of the conveyance of malaria by mosquitoes was given by the School, chiefly through Drs. SAMSON and Low. And again the parasite which causes the terrible malady known as Sleeping Sickness was discovered through the researches of two pupils and the late Superintendent of the School. With regard to the latter discovery, Sir PATRICK MANSON said on the 7th December that until a fortnight before it could not be affirmed with certainty that this parasite, the trypanosoma, was really the cause of Sleeping Sickness. Now we know that the trypanosoma causes Sleeping Sickness, and the knowledge will in the end result in our being able, if not to cure, at least to prevent the disease, which (converged, it seems, through the bite of a species of tsetse-fly) is rapidly spreading not only in the Congo Free State but also in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa. These discoveries are accomplished facts, "but," said the speaker, "they are not enough; they only serve to stimulate us to attempt more." The School is now actively investigating that at present mysterious disease beri-beri, Dr. DANIELS, the late superintendent, being in charge of a very complete research laboratory at Kuala Lumpur. But for the schemes of investigation on foot, for the remainder of the debt on the School buildings, for the furnishing of its library and museum, etc., money is required. Sir PATRICK MANSON put the case thus:—"We want £100,000, or as much of that sum as we can get. We have given full value for that money. Apart from the education we have supplied to our 354 students, any one of the discoveries I have mentioned is worth the sum I name ten times over. . . . I have, therefore, no hesitation in asking for something more on account." For the purpose of collecting some of the required money, Sir FRANCIS LOVELL, the Dean of the School, is repeating his visit of two years ago. A wealthy Parsee, the Hon. BOMANJI DINSHAW PETIT, before gave 100,000 rupees to the School; Sir PATRICK MANSON says that he does not despair of there being found somewhere a Chinese rival to Mr. PETIT, and looks especially to the Chinese, who stand to gain so much in the Malay Peninsula by the discovery of the cause of beri-beri, for aid at the present time. From business houses and corporations connected with the East the School has already received much support and this, Sir PATRICK is sure, will be continued. He concluded with a graceful acknowledgement of gratitude to the Press, both at home and in the East, for their assistance to Sir FRANCIS LOVELL, and to his medical brethren in India, the Straits, Hongkong, and elsewhere for their co-operation.

We are confident that this new appeal will not be made in vain. The London School of Tropical Medicine has established already a permanent claim on the sympathy and active help of all classes of residents

in the East. Hongkong will not be behind the rest in acknowledging this debt.

THE TRADE OF YUNNAN.

(Daily Press, 12th January.)

From time to time, in spite of the constant arising of more important questions in other parts of China, and in spite too of the long obsession of the public mind by the varying phases of the Manchurian difficulty, attention is directed in British official reports and in the columns of the British Colonial Press, to the subject of Yunnan's future and the probable share therein of British enterprise. We published yesterday the conclusions arrived at by Mr. LITTON, H.B.M.'s Acting-Consul, after a tour in the North-western part of the province last winter (1902-03). Mr. LITTON sets a good example to consuls by his painstaking investigation into the chances of his country's commerce in the part of the world wherein he is placed, and he writes neither with undue enthusiasm nor in despair. He points out, to start with, that Yunnan is out of the great current of China trade—at present, we may add, for the time is surely, if very slowly, coming when both Yunnan and Szechuen must attract a portion of that current to send it on either to French Indo-China or to Burma. We wish that we could also say to Hongkong, and indeed ten years ago we might so have said, when a Kowloon-to-Burma railway did not seem more impossible than a French Indo-Chinese line to Yunnanfu. But with railways in a new country it is the first line in which stands all the chances of success and, further, threatens to prevent competition. To return to the point, Yunnan, Mr. LITTON says, is out of the main current of China trade and a successful year there depends on the opium and rice harvests of the province, these in turn depending on the weather. What is wanted is some export products to give in return for Indian yarn and cotton goods. Similarly we find Mr. MONTGOMERY, Commissioner of Imperial Chinese Customs at Tengyueh, saying in his report on the trade of that place in 1902, that, if the importation of Indian and European goods is to increase, it seems more than ever necessary to find some means to add to the exports, so that they may be bartered for foreign goods and ruinous exchange transactions avoided. Mr. MONTGOMERY admits that it is not easy to suggest a remedy. Opium, of course, is prohibited from entering or passing through Burma. Now Mr. LITTON makes some suggestions for increasing the export trade of Yunnan. He points out the importance of the province as a possible field of supply for ponies and mules; he urges establishment of a cotton cloth weaving industry in the Tengyueh or neighbouring valley; and advises the presence of an European firm at Tengyueh in the hope of opening new lines of trade, especially of export trade, which the Chinese themselves are very slow to attempt. Yet it is to be noted from Mr. MONTGOMERY's report that the opening of the Tengyueh Custom House on the 8th May, 1902, followed by that of two stations nearer Burma three days later, was favourably received by the local merchants, who gave no trouble whatever in opposition to Customs methods. The first twelve months of Tengyueh were estimated to bring in Hk. Tls. 30,000 in duty collected, whereas under the old *lekin* rules the revenue varied between Hk. Tls. 10,000 and 20,000, never reaching the latter figure. The most popular imports, as enumerated by Mr. LITTON from his personal observations, are blankets, cheap clocks

and watches, mirrors, enamelled iron-ware, cheap ribbons and laces for trimmings, pocket-knives, padlocks, umbrellas, leather belts, the stouter cottons, such as American drills, cotton prints of a gaudy pattern, Turkey reds, cigarettes, jade, coral, and amber. Mr. MONTGOMERY mentions also American kerosene and Japanese matches. The actual value of native produce exported in 1902 was Hk. Tls. 148,392, of which no less than 73 per cent. was Szechuen yellow silk. There were also hemp-twine, carpets, walnuts, orpiment, paper, hides, and native drugs; Mr. LITTON adds musk, straw-braid, wools and furs, and bristles. With regard to mining-produce, Mr. MONTGOMERY has little to say, and Mr. LITTON does not care to offer any advice, while doubting whether in North-western Yunnan there are any mines which would repay the cost of transport of foreign machinery and introduction of foreign engineers. On the whole, it cannot be said that the immediate prospects of this part of the province are brilliant, but still it is considerably more populous than the part served by the Red River route, and the opening of Tengyueh must lead to expansion of trade by the Burma route. But the real importance of Yunnan, it must always be remembered, is that it is the threshold of Szechuen and the Upper Yangtze region, and for this reason its opening acquires a value entirely apart from what the province itself can do for Burmese and Indian trade. As the western gate of Central China the opening of Yunnan is essential to British commerce and influence.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 12th January.)

The regular epidemic of war rumours has been the chief feature of the past week, and almost every prominent firm in the Colony has been credited one day with a telegram announcing an outbreak. As for the Acting Governor (I think that this brief synonym for the Officer Administering the Government is pardonable, if incorrect), the General, and the Commodore, the number of important despatches which have reached them, according to popular report, is wonderful. No doubt these high personages have had some very interesting communications, but with regard to the actions of Japan and Russia little can be known, as both Governments are at special pains to keep things concealed. Hongkong will not be the first place in the world to hear of a declaration of war, if such occurs; but we certainly make up for that by inventing or imagining them, though they have not got into print yet. I suppose the intending war-correspondents, anxious to be under fire some of them, are the most eager for the news. There are, it is to be feared, a lot of the shadier kind of correspondents also on the watch for a good chair in a Chefoo or Pientsin hotel, whence to electrify their patrons in Europe and America and confound the authentic news telegraphed by their more honourable colleagues near the front.

Next to war rumours, exchange vagaries attract Hongkong attention; the movements are really quite exciting to watch, and the anxiety of amateur exchange gamblers is amusing, especially to the penurious philosopher. The exchange broker now must feel like the captain of a liner who is continually being asked, "How many knots is the ship going to do to-day?"—except that the broker cannot control the dollar as the captain his speed.

There has been some talk of late about dust and other rubbish having been thrown into Hongkong harbours. The Government are very strict with vessels touching at the port, insisting that no rubbish be thrown overboard; in fact, if seafaring men are to avoid being charged at the Magistracy they must be very careful. On the other hand, it is alleged by more

than one person that the dust-boats, taking sweepings away from their wharf at West Point, do not always go five miles out to sea as is required of them, but sometimes they are seen discharging refuse, etc., into the harbour. Considering that some half-dozen 600-picul boats leave the pier every morning, it is of the utmost importance that this matter should be investigated. One old sea-dog says that if matters are allowed to go on as at present, the Government will be saved the trouble of building a Hongkong-Kowloon bridge. Seriously, though, anything tending to injure our harbour should be avoided. The cost act for removing the rubbish, by the way, is let out to Chinese.

In placing on sale at the General Post Office one-dollar books of stamps, which comprise 16 4-cent stamps, 12 2-cent, and 12 1-cent, the Postmaster General is putting into practice a little idea which commends itself for convenience alike to the general public and the Post Office staff. One only wonders why such a simple and yet very practical idea, has not been adopted before. The tendency never to do to-day what you can do to-morrow asserts itself very strongly in a good many people when letter-writing is concerned; and there is always a great rush for stamps at the Post Office counter just before each European or American Mail departs. The issue of books of stamps will doubtless tend to relieve these crushes and lighten the work of the clerks.

The chit system is so deeply rooted to the Far East that even the latest griffin quickly develops a strong objection to pay cash when his chit will be taken with just as much pleasure, for the time being. But with the growth of the Colony one can notice in some directions a desire to supplant the old chit system by one which affords more protection to the man who sells. A local baker, for example, has his books of coupons, which the customer buys just as she would buy a dollar book of stamps at the Post Office. On the call of "the baker's man" the day's requirements are paid for in coupons. But I am afraid it is a long jump from buying bread to the purchase of drink with coupons.

Coming down Wyndham Street yesterday at 11.30 a.m., I saw a party of ladies and gentlemen who were purchasing flowers, suddenly start to cough and choke and wipe their faces vigorously. On nearing the spot I discovered the cause of the annoyance to be a number of coolies who were jogging along with ordinary baskets slung on bamboos, and filled with fine powdered lime, from which at every step of the carriers clouds of the pulverised lime were sent flying into the air—into the eyes, noses, and over the clothes of the passers-by. The baskets were in no way protected, nor did the coolies take the slightest precautions in carrying them, thus giving considerable annoyance to the near-by pedestrians. I believe there is an ordinance against nuisances, and surely this is one that calls for prompt action by the police, who should be authorised to stop all coolies from carrying lime, of all things, along the public thoroughfares in unprotected baskets. Other nuisances are abated by force of law. Why not this one?

I noticed again, coming down from St. John's Cathedral to Queen's Road, that the side of the slope remains unprotected, notwithstanding the menace it is to the safety of pedestrians using that thoroughfare at night. Probably it is a case of waiting until some prominent official—not necessarily of the P.W.D.—slips down and fractures a limb, before steps are taken to remedy the menacing danger. A couple of parallel bars, the highest being about four feet up from the walk, would provide the safety required.

Hongkong now has its Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and though it has not appeared in the reports, I do not doubt that some of the prosecutions which have recently been reported have resulted from the activity of the Society. I venture to suggest to the Society that something might be done in the direction of getting kindness to animals inculcated in the minds of the

Chinese children; and, indeed, children of all nationalities. But Chinese children seem to be particularly cruel in their treatment of animals. A day or two ago a couple of English ladies came upon a small gathering in Wellington Street, the attraction being the amusement a couple of well-dressed Chinese girls were deriving from the torture of a cat, which had been bound up in most heartless fashion and was being dragged along the street. Boiling over with indignation, the ladies promptly intervened. The two girls ran, but one—the worst offender—was caught, and in the presence of a crowd which quickly swelled to considerable proportions, the little wretch was made to cut with the scissors she had in her hand every bond which had been placed on the cat. And after a vigorous shaking she herself was let go. The crowd exhibited the usual unconcern of a Chinese crowd.

Most travelled people are vain of the number of foreign labels they can show on their trunks and valises. Some make it a practice to have the new ones stuck on always on a fresh place, so that by the time they have travelled a good many journeys their baggage comes to be like Joseph's coat, of many colours. A friend of mine had a cabin trunk of which he was especially proud. He invariably showed it to his friends as one of his treasures. It was covered all over with labels. One evening, lately, on going home, his boy met him with smiling face, and, obviously expecting of "cumsha" for his unusual diligence, informed the master that he had "makum clean that ole bag!" Sure enough the boy had carefully scraped the trunk clean of every scrap of paper. And he could not comprehend, either, why the owner swore.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. A. W. Brown, Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Fung W. Chun; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary) and Mr. J. H. Kemp (Assistant Secretary).

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications were granted on the motion of the PRESIDENT:—

Application for exemption from the provision of a backyard in respect to No. 75, Kramer Street, Taikoktsui.

Dr. McFarlane, assistant M.O.H., Kowloon, minuted:—The work has now been done according to the plan.

An application for exemption from the provision of an open space in respect to No. 17 Macdonald Road, Yau-moti.

Dr. McFarlane minuted:—I think house No. 17 might be exempted as it is a corner house and has windows in the side.

Application for permission to erect an 8-seat latrine on the roof of houses Nos. 130, and 132, Des Voeux Road, Central.

Dr. Barnett, Assistant M.O.H., minuted:—This is a common lodging-house. The average number of persons living here is over 100. I think this permit might be granted. There are now in this position six latrines in a dilapidated condition and I think the new ones will be a great improvement.

An application for permission to use the basement of No. 22 Western Street for the storage and preparation of preserved bean curd.

Dr. Pearce, M.O.H., minuted:—I recommend the application be granted if the windows into the side-lane be glazed so that the shutters need not be closed to keep out dust.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted:—Grant if instructions are carried out.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted:—Grant subject to the condition suggested by the M.O.H.

The following was refused:—

Application for permission to erect a sun-shade at the side of No. 183, Queen's Road, West.

Dr. Pearce minuted:—The place evidently intended as the tailor's workshop is an encroachment on to Li Ling Street, I recommend refusal.

SALE OF HUMAN FOOD.

Numerous applications for licences for the sale of food for men outside the public markets were laid on the table:—

Mr. Hanmer minuted:—Submitted with reference to the C.V.S.'s minutes endorsed on each application.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted:—If, as it would appear, these applications are not for licences in shops but for what is practically a hawker's business, I agree with the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The Captain Superintendent of Police's minute was:—Refuse them all. They can apply for licences as hawkers, which will not, however, allow them to locate themselves in these places.

The Registrar-General minuted:—In what other town in the world is the sale of fruit restricted to markets?

In relation to the licences to sell fruit outside markets.

Mr. RUMJAHN raised the point whether the Board should deal with applications for such licences. He was of opinion that under the Ordinance fruit was exempted.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL said they could not prevent the sale of fruit by licensed hawkers but could prevent it in the shops.

The PRESIDENT said that if Mr. Rumjahn was not satisfied with this, they could refer the matter to the Crown Solicitor and take his opinion.

This was agreed to.

The majority of the applications were refused.

SALE OF PORK.

There were some five applications for licences to sell pork.

Dr. Barnett minuted as follows:—Could you kindly let me know what recommendations I am expected to make with regard to licences for the sale of pork? From the point of view of public health I think it would be much better if all fresh meat were sold in the market, but, as some licences are granted, I suppose this is not possible. I have lately had these licences handed to me for my opinion. (1) No. 15 Wing Tung Street, ground floor. This is a dark premises facing into a narrow street. There is a 'ping-fing' which makes the back part dark. (2) No. 188 Queen's Road East, ground floor. Premises fairly lighted in front, but the back is partitioned off and used as a dwelling for five adults. (3) No. 2, Queen's Road East, ground floor. A corner house well lighted and ventilated for a Chinese ground floor. In none of these places does there seem any place for the storage of meat, and they (certainly not 1 and 2) are not open throughout as is the rule with butchers' shops at home.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted:—Pork should not be sold in outside shops except when there is not sufficient accommodation in the markets, or when a demand for a shop exists at a distance from a market.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted:—It seems desirable that pork should be sold in the market rather than in a shop.

The Registrar-General minuted:—All these might as well be renewed till the Wanchai Market extension is ready for occupation.

Most of these applications were also refused.

REFUSED.

An application was submitted for permission to use the basement of No. 35 Centre Street for the preparation and storage of food.

Mr. T. P. Conolly minuted:—No licence should be granted for this basement for the manufacture of food stuffs; the light is very defective, and the basement is in every way unsuitable for this trade.

Dr. Pearce minuted:—I do not consider the place fit for its present use in the manufacture and storage of bean curd.

Messrs. E. A. Hewett, H. E. Pollock, and the D. P. W. minuted: Refuse.

The application was refused on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.

EXEMPTION.

An application was made for exemption from the provision of an open space in respect of No. 29 Battery Street, Yaumati.

It was agreed to forward it with a recommendation for exemption.

CONSTRUCTION OF A STAIRCASE.

The reply to a letter of Mr. H. P. Tocker from Messrs. Palmer and Turner, was discussed. Mr. Tocker's letter was to the effect that, the Building Authority was unable to approve of their plan for construction of a staircase at No. 20 Connaught Road as the yard would be obstructed by the proposed staircase.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner replied that the staircase was in place of one of the bridges allowed by the Ordinance, and in no wise an obstruction more than a bridge. It was the only means of access to the kitchen.

Mr. A. Rumjahn moved:—I think modification by the Governor in Council is not necessary as section 178 of Ord. 1 of 1903 allows the area to be obstructed by a bridge or a flight of steps not more than 3 ft. 6 in. in width.

The PRESIDENT remarked that he thought it would be found that Section 178 did not deal with applications of this nature. Those areas referred to there are those that are made by cutting away the hill-side when a house is on a slope. An area was distinct from a backyard. There was no definition of an area. He had consulted with the Building Authority on this point and the latter agreed with him. He moved that this application be forwarded to the Governor in Council for modification.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded and the motion was agreed to.

RAT RETURN.

The rat-return for the week ended 11th inst. was laid on the table: 263 rats (including two infected rats) were caught in Hongkong, and 124 (including five infected) at Kowloon.

CLEANSING WORK.

The Secretary reported that the result of the cleansing work being carried out by the Chinese under the supervision of the Board's officers was that up till 19th December 15,223 floors had been cleansed; up till 31st December 18,983; and up till the 9th inst. 21,360 floors.

CIRCULATION OF PAPERS.

Mr. HEWETT again complained of the want of promptness with which the Board papers were circulated. He had seen no papers since last meeting until Tuesday morning and he got three boxes, crammed with papers, all at one time.

The PRESIDENT said the matter would receive attention, but remarked that the papers were circulated on the 7th, that was a week ago.

EXTERNAL AIR.

Mr. RUMJAHN said he had prepared a sketch showing that if a house complied with the new definition of external air every flat of that house could be divided into four sections, three of which could be called rooms and the other one a lobby. If such was the case, houses would be more insanitary than ever. He hoped the Board would recognise this and carefully consider the definition and recommend modification.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the discussion was not quite in order and told Mr. Rumjahn it would be better to make a motion dealing with the matter, if he wished to bring it forward.

Mr. RUMJAHN suggested that it might be referred back to the committee which was considering amendments to the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance.

The PRESIDENT said that could not be done as the Ordinance was passed and was now law.

This was all the public business.

A despatch to the *Asahi* dated Peking, December 28, says:—It is reported that Chang Yik who interviewed Viceroy Alexieff at Port Arthur recently, has given permission to Russia for the construction of a railway between Shimonien and Moukden. The report is not yet confirmed, but it is believed to be true. British subjects here highly censure Chang's conduct, and Chinese officials also blame him. Viceroy Yuan has declared that he will never endorse the promise said to have been given to Russia by Chang Yik.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

According to Reuter's telegram dated London, 12th January, It is announced in Berlin that Russia's proposals to Japan are essentially as follows:

(1) Japan is accorded various concessions in Corea.

(2) Japan is allowed to deal with Southern Corea economically and strategically as her interests may require.

(3) Russia leaves Japan full commercial freedom in Northern Corea, but neither [there] nor in Southern Corea shall Japan permanently occupy any fortresses, whether on the coast or in the interior.

(4) The establishment of a neutral fifty-kilometre zone along the Yalu to the Tumen, where neither Japan nor Russia shall establish fortresses, the Straits of Corea to be neutral and free to Russian ships.

(5) Russia accepts no conditions in reference to Manchuria, but is ready to accord Japan and other Powers representation for commercial interests.

It is also stated that Russia has notified the Powers that she will respect all rights in Manchuria granted under treaties with China.

TROUBLE ON THE CANTON-FATSHAN RAILWAY.

Within the last two or three days rumours of a most alarming character have come to Hongkong regarding the progress of the work on the Canton-Fatshan railway. According to our information, the work is practically at a standstill on all the sections of the railroad. The natives are apparently bitterly opposed to the European venture, and, if all accounts are true, are ready to resist by force of arms the incoming of the foreigners. Europeans who have come down from the line lately all tell the same tale of the Chinese showing bad feeling towards the Westerners who are engaged on the line. The attack on one of the railway construction camps lately will be fresh yet in the public memory. On that occasion the matcheds were burned and all the tools and plant were destroyed. The Europeans were chased for their lives into the middle of the river and had most of their property destroyed. Now it appears that the people in charge of the construction of the line have been informed of an imminent rising against the whites there. Orders have been issued that no Chinese are to be allowed in European houses there. It is an open secret that at Chinese New year a rising may be prophesied in Canton similar to that which occurred a year ago. The rumour goes that all the Europeans in the neighbourhood of the new line are to be butchered. Naturally, the greatest possible precautions are being taken, and there is little fear of the white workers being caught napping. It is an eloquent fact, however, that there has been a steady exodus of men from the railway workings within the last week or so. The new arrivals in Hongkong give it out as a fact that trouble is expected, and that it will be serious when it comes. Work on the line is more or less disorganised owing to the recent looting of one of the camps, and it is quite on the boards that there may be a simultaneous attack on all the camps together. The workers have been ordered not to keep Chinese in their houses at all.—*Daily Press*, 12th January.

The Canton-Fatshan railway authorities are continuing to experience troubles of the serious nature, alarming reports having arrived here by the latest steamers. On Thursday it was confirmed that the Chinese labourers on the new line had gone on strike on the grounds of their receiving an insufficiency of wages (although as a matter of fact their pay from the beginning was considerably above ordinary coolies' wages) and that work is at a standstill. Many well-meaning labourer have been thrown out of work, and this has caused them to join in the riots. Considering that, as we have said, the pay these men are complaining of is liberal as compared with the scale their fellow-workers, employed by Chinese, are in receipt of, it is to be hoped that prompt measures to quell the disturbance will be taken by the Chinese authorities.—*Daily Press*, 15th January.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION AND THE FISCAL POLICY.

Mr. C. Pemberton, Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, informs us that the Committee on Wednesday despatched the following telegram to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain:—

"Large majority of members Hongkong Branch China Association warmly support your fiscal aims. Consider reciprocal treaties absolutely necessary, failing which recommend adoption retaliation."

The members of the Association, who were asked to vote on the subject, were practically unanimous in sanctioning its despatch, only one dissenting.

FIRE IN HONGKONG HARBOUR.

On Tuesday night the Fire Brigade were informed that a fire had broken out on the Norwegian steamer *Prima* (Captain B. A. Meyer), which was lying at the western end of the Harbour, just opposite the gas-works. A party of men was at once despatched, under Chief Inspector H. G. Baker, Mr. D. Macdonald, engineer, and Sergeant R. Macdonald, assistant engineer. The floating engine opposite the Harbour Office was soon got alongside the *Prima*. It was found that the fire was confined to the forepeak where the crew's quarters are situated. Four hoses, two big and two small, were led into the seat of the conflagration, and in the space of about two hours the flames had been flooded out. It was then discovered that the damage done had not been very extensive, being confined to the wood work in the neighbourhood where it started. It appears that the cause of the outbreak was the explosion of a lamp in the lamp-room. An European who was working in the room at the time was somewhat seriously burned when the lamp exploded. The *Prima* arrived on the 8th inst. from Haiphong with a cargo of rice consigned to Messrs. Sander, Wisler & Co. and was light at the time of the outbreak. On the 13th inst. the water, with which she had been deluged was pumped out and she went over to Kowloon Docks in the afternoon for repairs.

CANTON.

Canton, 9th January.

THE END OF AO CHAN.

The brigand chief Ao Chan has been tracked and killed in the village Ao Chuan at the foot of the Saichew mountain in the Namhoi district. The dead bodies of Ao and three of his adjutants were placed on the Government wharf at Canton for identification and burial. Some of Admiral Li Chou's soldiers who were killed in fighting against the brigands were buried with honour, soldiers accompanying their remains to the burial ground. Yesterday Captains Ko How Chee, Pun Cheuk Man, and Fu Chan Hoi were summoned before Viceroy Shum, who in a few appropriate words praised them and promised them promotion. The people here say that one of the greatest mischiefs in Kwangtung has been destroyed.

JOSS-HOUSE IN TROUBLE.

The joss-house of Wong Tai Sin, or the Great Genius Wong, in Honam, has been doing a roaring trade, every day thousands of people going there to pray the joss to give them children or good luck, and the keeper thereof was making a fortune by selling joss-sticks and papers. Some of the gentry and graduates petitioned the Viceroy, characterising all this as a great nuisance, and asked him to confiscate the temple. His Excellency ordered the joss to be shifted, and his temple converted into a public school.

MORE PIRACY.

Attack and robbery on an extensive scale is reported. Several hundred thieves went in two large boats towed by a steam-launch to Pakshok village in Sun Ui, and attacked and robbed seventy or more houses and shops from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. next morning. The property taken was enormous. At first the villagers were afraid to resist; but when the robbers were just leaving they went out and fought with them, two villagers being killed and several badly wounded.

So now they, together with the inhabitants of the adjacent village Sun Ning, have petitioned for permission to form volunteer corps, and have sent men to Hongkong to buy arms.

KIDNAPPING.

A girl, Lai A Sam, was kidnapped and sold to one of the disorderly houses in Taihanghow. Upon the information of her mother the head of the police went with a number of men to take her out. The keepers of the houses resisted and fought with them, two policemen being badly wounded. The Viceroy ordered all the disorderly houses in that street and its vicinity, numbering about one hundred and thirty, to be closed and their inmates turned out. It is said that the officials want to charge six hundred dollars to release each house, or make them quarters for the police. During these few nights the restaurant, music and singing business was stopped.

PORT ARTHUR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Port Arthur, 28th December.

A STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE.

Much anxiety is felt for the well-known Port Arthur merchant, Mr. Sydney George Reilly (whose name I mentioned in my last letter), the Manager of the East Asiatic Company, who left about seven weeks ago for a short pleasure trip to Japan and has not been heard of since the 18th November. The disappearance of Mr. Reilly has given rise to a considerable amount of gossip. It appears, however, that the case is absolutely mysterious, as money has no place in it. Mr. Reilly voluntarily gave notice, some time back, that he wished to leave his lucrative post as manager of the above-mentioned Danish Company in order to start in business on his own account. The confidence of his friends in his honesty and business capacity was such that sufficient money was placed at his disposal to enable him to begin the new business, and the pick of the East Asiatic Company's Port Arthur branch resigned their posts (or gave notice) in order to join him in his new venture. The present writer saw him in his own house just before he started for Japan and found him looking well, although he said that he had overworked himself and needed a rest badly. He accordingly left Dalny for Nagasaki by the C. E. R. S. *Argun* on the 14th November, reached Nagasaki on the 16th, and telegraphed the news of his arrival to a friend in Port Arthur on the same day. He afterwards wrote from Kobe on the 18th saying that he was delighted with Japan and proposed seeing Osaka, Kioto, and Miyafoshita before returning. That was the last letter his friends received from him, and some seven weeks have now elapsed without any news of him coming to hand. He should have been back in Port Arthur several weeks ago in order to assist at the closing of the business for the year and to meet his wife, then on her way from Europe. Mrs. Reilly arrived, expecting to meet her husband who had telegraphed to her saying that he hoped they would spend Christmas together, and her surprise and annoyance on discovering his absence and on hearing some of the gossip circulated about him may easily be imagined. She has now left for Japan in order to trace him as best she can. Some of Mr. Reilly's friends here are inclined to think that he is the occupant of a Japanese dungeon as a Russian spy, but this is in the highest degree improbable, as is also the theory that he has met with an accident on some out-of-the-way mountain in the Hakone district. If he were arrested he could soon put himself in communication with persons who could help him, and if he met with an accident or were even killed in some remote part of Japan, the police would very soon communicate with his friends here.

Mr. Reilly's father was Irish, and his mother Polish. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Heidelberg University, Germany and speaks French, German, and Russian as well as he speaks English. He studied chemistry at college and joined Messrs. Clarkson's Port Arthur branch two years ago as a clerk. His rise to the head of the Port Arthur branch of

the East Asiatic Company was rapid, but did not apparently satisfy his active spirit, for he seems to have been interested in other commercial enterprises, especially in the Liaotung Mining Syndicate. I saw Mr. Forum, the present manager of the E. A. Company here, and he says that Mr. Reilly's accounts are in order.

STRANGE AFFAIR ON BOARD THE "CHUNGKING."

I have heard of a rather strange occurrence that took place on Christmas Eve. A Chinaman had paid the comrade to give up his cabin to him from Vladivostok to Chefoo, and on Christmas night there was such a disturbance in the cabin of the comrade that the latter was asked in the morning to tell what was the matter. He replied that he had not slept in the cabin having surrendered it to a friend; but on afterwards proceeding to interview this friend in order to obtain an explanation of the disturbance, he found a Chinaman he had never seen before occupying the cabin, the original lessee of the cabin having apparently disappeared. A diligent search for him revealed, however, the fact that he had been chopped into very small pieces and tied up in a sack which was discovered in the cabin. Robbery must have been the motive of the murderer, for the victim was rich and had been bringing a large sum of money with him from Vladivostok. The fact that the British Consulate at Chefoo handed two Chinese pirates over to the local native authorities on Christmas Day may have something to do with this strange occurrence on board a British vessel.

CHEFOO AT CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

The foreign community of Chefoo—the younger portion of it at least—celebrated Christmas in a sensible fashion by a game of football played by the Customs v. the rest of Chefoo. The latter team scored two goals to nil. Next day there was a hockey match, in which many of the local young ladies took part with great earnestness and no little skill. Some of the private celebrations of the great Christmas festival—at all events the one which the present writer had the privilege of attending—were marked by a spirit of joyousness, reverence, and light-heartedness such as would have delighted Dickens himself.

CHRISTMAS AT PORT ARTHUR.

In Port Arthur at least one local merchant, a Canadian, celebrated Christmas in the good old style, that is, with the accompaniment of Christmas tree, etc., but of course the Russians did not observe the day. Their Christmas comes later and promises to be celebrated with all the enthusiasm with which Russians celebrate. There will be three days of unbroken revelry, then on the 29th there will be a pause, and again on the 30th the revelry recommences. There are always a good many people, especially soldiers and sailors, in the hospitals after these religious fêtes.

Port Arthur, 30th December.

THE BATTLE OF VAFIN.

The burial of the Russian soldiers who were killed in the fight with the *Hunghuize* or Manchurian highwaymen at the village of Vafin in Mongolia on the 13th November last, took place with the usual ceremonies at Dashi zyo in Manchuria on the 9th December. At the same time full information of the little campaign which terminated at Vafin has been published. It is a long story but an interesting one, for it bears a close resemblance to many of the British campaigns against De Wet during the South African war. The Manchurian De Wet is called Tulensan by the Russians and seems to be a resourceful leader. He had under him two lieutenants, one of them a Chinaman called Tenben, and the other a Russian convict who had escaped from the penal colony at Sakhalin, and who called himself Fulehoy, but this is probably an assumed name. Mention is also made in the reports of the campaign of a brother of Fulehoy who was captured by the Chinese and put to death, and it may be here stated that Fulehoy himself, who was about as useful to Tulensan as Abdullah Sheri was to the Mad Mullah of Somaliland, broke his back in attempting to escape from the Russians at Vafin. Tulensan escaped, however, with the loss of several of his fingers. A singular feature

of the affair is that the Chinese authorities seem to have connived at Tulensan's raids, although they showed no hesitation in executing any of the captured marauders whom the Russians handed over to them. But it is clear that the Russians take care of the more important of the robber chiefs themselves, at least they have a fine collection of them in the Arrestny Dom in Port Arthur which is, in consequence, visited frequently by important-looking Chinamen who drive up to the portals of that establishment in *izoscheeks* and spend a long time conferring with the captured bandits. It is not improbable that the authorities at Peking are indirectly encouraging the highwaymen to make things hot for the Russians, but a more short-sighted policy it would be difficult to imagine, for it only gives the latter an excuse for remaining in Manchuria.

The hunt for Tulensan seems to have now lasted for a whole year. It began in the August of 1902 when intelligence was received that this doubtful brigand was in full flight. He seems, by the way, to have always managed to do the most damage when in full flight. He was then in the Liao River district, not far from Moudan, and at the head of 600 men who are described by the Russians as perfectly disciplined and mounted on fine horses. Lieutenant Konshina endeavoured to surround him with the 41st Sotnya, but Tulensan escaped through a gap left on the left flank of the Russians and the Liao River. Cornet Levshenevsky was sent in pursuit of him with a flying column which the 41st Sotnya came on behind. On the 19th of August last the cornet located Tulensan in the village of Syakhontu, or rather the robbers made known their presence to the Russian by greeting the latter with a volley as they entered the village. The Russian accounts say that the bandits were defeated, but as they only lost a few men and succeeded in getting clean away, this defeat was really a very creditable one for them. They suffered more severely on the 20th August at the village of Tendostun, although that place is surrounded by marshes hitherto believed to be impassable. They were driven out of this village with a loss of 25 men killed, many arms and horses, five *pod* of powder and 12,000 cartridges. After this defeat Tulensan fled to Mongolia.

Towards the end of October, this year, news was received that Tulensan with a new band of 300 men was at Apshanchju on the Chinese Eastern Railway between the rivers Taiuzikhe, Khukhya, and Liao. A party was at once sent in pursuit of him under the direction of Captain Vestermark. Along with Tulensan was the famous Russian renegade Fulehoy with 50 mounted men, also the other celebrated brigand chief Tenben with about 100 mounted men. In view of this formidable combination the Russian force sent in pursuit was sufficiently formidable, consisting as it did of the 7th Sotnya, two companies of the 4th Brigade, one command of cavalry, and four guns, under the chief command of Captain Trotsky of the General staff. The object of the expedition was to surround the highwaymen and to prevent them making their way into Mongolia. In the *Novi Krai* newspaper of Port Arthur, from which I take this account, it is stated that Tulensan had been previously in Peking and had received permission to cross into Mongolia.

In order to catch Tulensan it was manifestly necessary to guard all the fords on the Liaohe, but the robber captain succeeded in finding a ford which was not guarded. By the night of 30th October (old style), however, the Russians had overtaken him at the village of Vafin in Mongolia. They were not sure at first if it were he, and there were not a large number of Russians present, so that some care was necessary. But the Russians took no precautions. A non-commissioned officer and two privates penetrated into the village, killed several armed robbers and had soon the whole nest of hornets about them. The robbers numbered no less than 900 men, and their equipment and good shooting as well as their method of attack seemed to indicate that they were regular soldiers. For a time the Russians were in great danger but they crouched down behind some Chinese houses on the outskirts of the village and held their own gallantly. But they were unable to prevent the escape of the robbers

when the latter mounted their horses and came to the conclusion that it was time to be off. According to the Russian accounts, the robbers lost 178 men killed and about 200 wounded and had to leave behind 250 horses and a large number of guns as well as considerable supplies of cartridges.

The Russian losses consisted of one officer wounded, and of four men killed and nine wounded. A local English doctor, a Mr. Learmont, and his wife tended the wounded with an attention which was much appreciated by the Russians.

THE SITUATION.

The situation is now so bad that it could not well be worse. The Russians say that the Japanese evidently want a war and are acting in the right way to get it. The conduct of the Chinese on the borders of Manchuria is also disquieting, in fact it is clear that they are encouraging and supporting the mounted bandits, a course of policy in which they are believed to be assisted by the Japanese but which is a very mistaken line for them to take. If China openly joins Japan in a war with Russia, her position will be still worse, for the Russians will annex Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan and perhaps overthrow the Manchu dynasty. However that may be, there can be no doubt that we are now trembling on the brink of war.

COREAN NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Mokpo, 29th December.

THE HAGIWARA AFFAIR.

The real truth of the Hagiwara incident at Yong-ampho is said to be as follows:—Mr. Hagiwara, Secretary of the Japanese Legation in Seoul, made a trip to the north of Korea by boat and entered the harbour of Yong-ampho but the Russians who had occupied the place refused to allow him to land. As soon as this fact was transmitted to Seoul, the Japanese Minister enquired of the Russian Minister what the cause of this might be. The reply was that as the whole matter of Russian operations along the Yalu was in the hands of Admiral Alexieff the Russian Legation in Seoul knew nothing about the matter. The Japanese therefore made representations in the proper quarters, and the Russian authorities said that it had been all a mistake. Thereupon Mr. Hagiwara again went to Yong-ampho and was received very courteously and shown all over the place. According to his report in regard to the supposed fortifications, these turned out to be nothing but stables! At least they were not fortifications. It is quite evident that there is more behind this than the public is supposed to know, but it makes little difference what may be behind it so long as peace is preserved in the Far East.

"LEADING NAMES."

There is a curious custom in Korea called *Chaham*, "Leading Name." It consists in a man being made an official just for a day or two in order to be able to tack that particular title to his name for ever after. Of course it costs something, but there are plenty of men who have more money than titles, and who are willing to make an exchange. There is, however, a Government department which does not countenance this sort of thing.

EXCHANGE AND COPPER?

The drop in exchange brought the intrinsic value of Korean copper cents above their exchange value, and immediately the Chinese began to buy them in right and left and send them to China. The result was that the copper cents went to a premium of 20 cents as compared with the nickel coins. It is said that the Customs interfered with the export of copper and a number of Chinese failed to connect.

CEREMONY INTERFERED WITH.

The young prince Yung-ohin was for a few days afflicted with an eruption that frequently succeeds small-pox. This interfered with the celebration of Independence Day, and his Majesty gave no audience to the foreign representatives and employees.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

Yi Chi-yong was appointed Korean Minister to Japan about the end of November.

Mr. H. N. Allen, United States Minister at Seoul, and Mrs. Allen have arrived from America.

WILL THERE BE WAR?

The following views on the Russo-Japanese question I venture to submit to your readers. It is erroneous to argue that Russia could not give way before an Asiatic Power. She did so in the early eighties, when she yielded up Ili and Kuldja to China, after both countries had been hovering for months on the verge of war, and she will do so again, as Japan is quite resolute in the stand she has taken, and is supported, to some extent, by both Great Britain and the United States. To her Corea, which is involved in the Manchurian issues, is a matter of life or death Japanese interests in Manchuria are far from being merely commercial, such as are those of Great Britain and America. They are a matter of vital importance to her, and hence she will remain firm, and not, like the United States, ask for any more opening of ports. If Russia does not give way it is firmly believed that Japan will fight, and will invade Manchuria by way of Corea. In a contest with Japan Russia will have to depend not on her whole strength, but on that portion of it which she can bring to bear in the Far East. The sea would be closed to her, and the lesson of the South African war must have taught her the inefficiency of a long single line of railway as a means of transportation of troops. In the event of war Japan would in all probability pour troops into the Liaotung peninsula, put forth all her efforts for its reduction and the capture of Port Arthur, and then fortify herself beyond its narrow neck, and thus having command of the sea, hold it securely as a base of operations, whence she could advance her troops as deemed necessary. It is, therefore, a mistake to say that Japan could do little against Russia, the colossal, for Japan is also colossal in Manchuria. Whatever Russian diplomacy may do to keep all she can, she will eventually give way to the pressure brought to bear by Japan, and we shall not see a war between these Powers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REFUSE-DUMPING IN THE HARBOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th January.

SIR.—In your issue of this date, under the heading of "Hongkong Jottings," I notice that reference is made to the throwing of refuse into the harbour by the Government scavenging contractor's men. There is no doubt that, in the absence of the sanitary inspectors, the contractor's men have often dumped refuse into the sea while the dust-boats are along the Praya, or while they are on their way to the depot, as that would save the men the trouble of carrying the refuse on shore again thither. But is there not a clause in the present scavenging contract stipulating that the contractor shall see that the whole of the City refuse be deposited at the depot on land at Tsun-Wan Bay not less than ten feet above high-water mark and be there burnt? Now that the plague season is coming on and the sanitary regulations are being strenuously enforced, perhaps some of our energetic unofficial members of the Sanitary Board will find out the reason why such an important clause of the contract should be treated as a dead letter? At any rate a reliable watchman should be appointed to supervise the burning of the refuse and keep a look-out on the dust-boats while they are on their way to the depot.—Yours faithfully,

SANITATION.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent wired on the 7th inst. that "Russia appears still to hope for a peaceful settlement, but the situation is considered here to be most grave and to have now reached the stage where it must be handled by the military arm." Later he telegraphed: "Russia's answer is unsatisfactory, especially with reference to Corea. The negotiations between Japan and Russia have no common ground on which they can be continued. The so-called friendly negotiations are undoubtedly futile."

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 11th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY WENDT & CO.

Wendt & Co. merchants, 6, Ice House Street, claimed from the Chop Yik firm the sum of \$1066.54 restricted to \$1000, being damage sustained by the plaintiffs by reason of the non-acceptance by the defendants of 20 cases of Oxford shirts contracted to be purchased by them from the plaintiffs under contract dated 18th February last. Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor), was for the defendants.

Mr. Looker in opening the case for the plaintiffs said that on 18th February they entered into a contract with the defendants for the sale of 20 cases of Oxford shirts to be delivered within two months. They telegraphed home and were informed the goods could not be supplied within four months. On this they told the defendants and the contract was closed, the goods to be supplied "the soonest possible." His Lordship would have to decide what these words meant. When the goods came to hand they were repudiated by the defendants, solely on the question of time. The case was adjourned.

Tuesday, 12th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY A CONTRACTOR.

The Yow Lee firm claimed from Tsoi Tsung the sum of \$965.97, being the balance due for work and labour done and materials supplied in respect of the buildings on Marine Lot No. 135. Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. Harding, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors, for the defendant.

Before the commencement of the hearing of the case,

Mr. Grist said he was informed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada (who was in Court) that the defendant was a partner in the Wai Ty firm, in respect of which a receiving order had been recently made. In that case he could not proceed with the case. Mr. Harding said he understood that the defendant was a different man altogether.

The defendant on being called up said he was not a partner in the firm named.

Mr. A. Turner was the first witness called. He deposed that he was the architect in respect of work being done on the lot in question, the Taiping Theatre at Shek Tong Tsui. Some months ago the contractor ran away. A man named Sheung Ty took over the contract. After a time he said he could not carry it out, and an arrangement was made whereby the defendant Tsoi Tsung took it over from him. There was some concrete work to be done which was not completed. It was not finished yet. Most of the concrete work had been done since Tsoi Tsung took over the contract. Also there was some work to be done in the way of fixing the iron pillars; all of this had been done since the taking over of the contract.

Mr. Harding was proceeding to cross-question Mr. Turner with reference to whether or no it was the custom in Hongkong for a contractor who took over a contract from another contractor to assume liability for the other's arrears debts, when Mr. Grist said he did not intend to seek recovery of the original contractor's arrears. There were some \$500 arrears, so that the amount claimed would be about \$450.

His Lordship said that at any rate he could not have allowed that part of the claim.

After the examination of Chinese witnesses the case was adjourned.

Wednesday, 13th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

Tong In On, trader, 22, Sai Yuen Street, claimed from Wan In Nam, trader, master of the Kwan Wo Tung firm, 53, Aberdeen Village, the sum of \$175.67, being monies deposited by the plaintiff with the defendant as to \$100 on two separate deposit receipts of \$50 each written in the Chinese language and dated 5th August, 1902, and as to \$75.67 on a deposit receipt written in the Chinese language and dated 4th December, 1902. Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Denny and Bwley, solicitors, for the defendant.

Mr. Bonner asked for an adjournment to permit of some partnership accounts being translated.

Mr. Hays said his instructions were that the claim had nothing to do with partnership accounts. His only reason for objecting to an adjournment was simply that the defendant might disappear.

His Lordship—I thought he had gone long ago.

Mr. Bonner—I understand he is still here.

His Lordship—I do not know your defendant, but I have a little knowledge of Wan In Nam. I hope he does not run up against my knowledge.

Mr. Bonner added that the money was money advanced to complete the plaintiff's share in a partnership account.

His Lordship granted an adjournment, and said he would consider the question of security being lodged on application being made to him in Chambers.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

Thursday, 14th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN UNFORTUNATE STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

In the matter of the Wo On Steamship Co. and in the matter of the Companies Ordinances, 1865 to 1889.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon, solicitors), appeared in support of an application for a winding-up order. The petition sent in by the Company, he said, showed that owing to bad trade the Company was insolvent. It had assets but was not quite able to pay its liabilities, and really the only possible course to adopt in order to avoid incurring further liabilities was to cease trading and wind up the Company. There were about \$45,000 of liabilities and about \$31,000 of assets.

His Lordship said he saw that there had been a provisional liquidator appointed; had he made any report?

Mr. Slade replied that he had not. He was appointed to secure the assets. It was quite a recent appointment. He was appointed until the hearing of the petition or further order. He would ask his Lordship to continue this.

His Lordship said he noticed the liquidator had given security to the extent of \$30,000. It would have to be looked into whether that extended to his further appointment or not. No one appeared to oppose the petition?

Mr. Slade—No.

His Lordship—As regards the contributors, they are all fully paid-up shares?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship went on to remark that this Company appeared to have been incorporated in April, 1902, and wanted to work passenger traffic between Hongkong and certain parts of the West River, at any rate to carry on business as ferrymen, wharfingers, carriers and steamboat-owners. In less than a year's time they got into difficulties and they said the business was going on at a daily loss. In these circumstances he thought it was right that a winding-up order should be made. His Lordship made an order accordingly and appointed Mr. A. R. Lowe to be official liquidator subject

to proper security being given to the satisfaction of the Registrar, and also sanctioned the appointment by the official liquidator of a solicitor to assist him. He added that in future cases of this kind he would rather have a report by the liquidator before him, as it might turn out that a company was not insolvent after all.

NEW SOLICITORS ADMITTED TO THE BAR.

At the Supreme Court yesterday—His Honour Sir William M. Goodman, Chief Justice, presiding—three new solicitors were admitted to practice at the Bar of Hongkong.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., moved that Mr. Otto Kong Sing be admitted and enrolled to practise. The application was supported by affidavits which showed that Mr. Otto Kong Sing was admitted to practise in September of last year in the Supreme Court of Adjudication in England. There was also the usual affidavit of identity, which had been filed by Mr. Fung Wa Chun. There were also before his Lordship the certificate of his admission to practise as a solicitor in England and of the Incorporated Law Society.

His Lordship said he had read the papers in this case and they appeared to be in order. He had much pleasure in admitting Mr. Otto Kong Sing, and directed accordingly.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., introduced Mr. Dudley Van han Stevenson, and moved that he be admitted to practise as a solicitor of that Court. The affidavits filed showed that he was admitted a solicitor of the Court of Adjudication in England in July 1902. He had been previously articulated for five years in London, and he had just arrived in the Colony to join the firm of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon. It was proposed to file one other affidavit, if his Lordship would consent, as to the identity of Mr. Stevenson's signature with that appearing on the a resment under which he had come out to Hongkong.

His Lordship thought it desirable that this further affidavit should be filed. If there was an affidavit pointing out that Mr. Stevenson's signature was the same as that appearing on his agreement that would be sufficient. He had much pleasure in admitting him.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., also moved the admission of Mr. Arthur Conrad Holborow, who, he said, had been admitted to practise as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Adjudication at home last November. He had previously been articulated for five years in the country and at Messrs. Hepworth & Co. in London. He also had only recently arrived in the Colony to join Messrs. Deacon, Looker & Deacon. It was proposed to file a further affidavit as in the case of Mr. Stevenson.

His Lordship said he had much pleasure in admitting Mr. Holborow. With regard to the three gentlemen who had been admitted that day he felt confident, having regard to the papers he had read showing their antecedents, that they would worthily maintain the reputation and dignity of the profession of which they were members. He wished them success in their practice.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

Chan Yik Cho, alias Chang Fang, carrying on business at 237, Des Voeux Road West under the styles of the Kwong Yik and the Kwong Cheong, applied for a receiving order. In the application it was stated that the assets amounted to \$25,553.37 and the liabilities to \$53,096.06. Of the assets about 40 per cent. were not bad debts, and the remainder doubtful. Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor, appeared for the debtor.

His Lordship said he would like to know what the debtor wanted with two shops; why did he trade under two different firms?

The debtor on being called up said in reply to questions that he first of all had one shop; then he found he could carry on another one, so he opened a second.

His Lordship—You speculated in rice and lost your money; is that it?

The Debtor—Yes.

His Lordship—I do not like these two different shops. One can draw bills on the

other and all sorts of iniquity could be done between them.

The Debtor in reply to further questions stated that when he started he was doing pretty well. When he opened the second shop people who owed him money would not pay him what they owed. He opened these shops three or four years ago, the Kwong Yik first—that was about the beginning of 1900—and the second one last Chinese New Year. At that time he was solvent. The way in which he lost over \$40,000 in this last year was on account of sums owing to him abroad in Japan and Australia; he sent rice and had not got the remittances for it.

His Lordship—Have you got friends out there? I suppose you send out goods to them and do not get paid, go into bankruptcy, and then go out there and get a nice little fortune out of it?

The Debtor replied that there was nothing of that kind in his case. He believed about 40 per cent. of his assets were recoverable in Hongkong.

His Lordship granted a receiving order, and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd official receiver, ABSCONDING DEBTOR.

In the matter of Li Tsau Lap and another, ex parte the Sam Choy Brick, Tile and Timber Co., Ltd.,

Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors, appeared in support of an application for a receiving order. The creditors, he said, had supplied the debtors from time to time with materials, bricks, etc., for the purposes of their contractor's business; and in July of last year there was a considerable balance due from the firm to the creditors. They began a suit for the recovery of this balance, against these two debtors, but on the writ being served they disappeared, and so far as he was aware nothing could be heard of them since. The chief money so far as the creditors were aware that could be counted as assets was a sum of \$2,000 odd due to the Shing Kee firm under a contract for the building of a house for Mr. Murray Bain. He contracted with a certain firm for this work and they transferred their contract by means of a sub-contract to the Shing Kee firm. The Shing Kee was composed of several partners, but the two debtors were the only ones that were known to the accountant of the business, and they really did all the work. It was a peculiar case in this way, that the money owing from Mr. Murray Bain had already been attached, but Mr. Murray Bain did not know to whom to pay it.

His Lordship pointed out that in an action against these absconding debtors it had been decided already that this money did not belong to them. Referring to the absconding of these men he said he could not alter the geographical position of Canton, but he believed it would be good for the commercial integrity of Hongkong if Canton were 1,000 miles away instead of only the distance of a \$1 fare. As he was not satisfied that there were any assets in this case he declined to make an order.

During the hearing, Mr. O. D. Thomson watched the case on behalf of Chau Tak and Pang Lam, who claimed the money as due from the Kin Hop Lung firm, who made the contract with Mr. Murray Bain.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY A. ROSS AND CO.

Messrs. A. Ross & Co., 4, Des Voeux Road Central, sued the Ching Hop firm, Wing Lok Street, for \$708.11, being loss on resale of wire rigging of which the defendants refused delivery. Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Hastings, solicitors, for the defendants.

Mr. Bonner in opening the case said the claim was for damages in respect of a breach of contract for the sale of some wire rigging. The contract was dated 18th December, 1902, and was for 50 tons of old wire rigging, of fair quality, not too much worn or rusted and of as good quality as possible, the goods to arrive by January or February shipments. They arrived

in due time and eventually defendant's refused delivery. Some of the goods arrived on 20th March and the last lot on 2nd June. When the last lot arrived the defendants refused to chop the delivery book, and plaintiffs had to cancel the order at home. Of the first two lots, which arrived in due time, defendant's refused to take delivery because of the quality of the goods. He intended to call Mr. Douglas to speak as to the quality of the goods.

Mr. Hastings said he thought the question was not one of quality at all but of delivery in time.

Mr. Bonner contended that it was defendant's who cancelled the contract by refusing to take delivery.

Mr. J. T. Douglas, marine surveyor, deposed that he had examined about 200 coils of this wire rigging. It was in pretty bad condition. When he examined it, the wire had been lying outside exposed to the weather for from four to seven months and must have deteriorated.

Cross-examined—It was unfit for rigging purposes. A great deal of it was fit for making nails.

After other evidence had been heard, the case was adjourned.

CLAIM BY ARNHOLD, KARBERG AND CO.

A suit was called in which Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. sued the Wing Tai, 50, Des Voeux Road Central, for \$293.21, being damages sustained by a breach by the defendants of a contract for the purchase of 20 cases of tobacco, dated 31st July, 1902. Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon, Looker & Deacon, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. G. K. H. Bruton for the defendants.

Mr. Looker asked for permission to amend the writ by making the name Wing Tai into Wing Tai Lung Kee.

Mr. Bruton raised no objection, and the amendment was made.

Mr. Looker went on to say that this was one of those cases—they might almost call them China New Year cases—of a firm changing its name in order to avoid paying its debts. Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. sold 20 cases of tobacco to the Wing Tai firm and it was taken delivery of and some amount was paid on account. The firm owed his clients still the balance that was being sued for. They had kept pressing the Wing Tai to pay and were put off from time to time by the partner with whom they had been dealing. The Wing Tai afterwards asked for an allowance, but the plaintiffs said they could not give an allowance. Then one day plaintiffs noticed that the name of the shop had been altered from Wing Tai to Wing Tai Lung Kee, and they were told that it was a new firm. Apparently what had taken place was that a new sign had been put up and the people of the place said it was a new shop and was not responsible for the old debts. Plaintiffs could not prove what was the transaction between the old and the new shops: they could only submit that things were not done in the way they ought to have been done, and the inference was that they were really the same firm.

Evidence was then taken, the defence being that the new firm had no connection with the old shop and knew nothing about the contract.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendants, with costs.

CRICKET.

A.O.C. V. CIVIL SERVICE C.C.

This League match was on the 9th inst. played on the Cricket Ground, as its importance in the decision of League honours this year entitled it to a prominent place in the season's fixtures. The A.O.C. entered the field with 8 wins and one loss to their credit, the Civil Service with 5 wins and a draw. Though the A.O.C. had lost the previous match with the Civil Service, they were looked on as probable winners, and not once did they give their supporters any anxiety. Winning the toss, Capt. Davies sent in Sergeant-Major Webb and Corporal Lillywhite, the latter a descendant or connection of the celebrated Sussex cricketer. Lillywhite left when he had made 19, but Webb continued to bat excellently and received most vigorous support from Capt. Davies, who hit up 63 in short time. The innings was declared

closed with the total at 180 for 4 wickets, Webb being not out 82. The Civil Service fielding was not good. When the Civil Service went in it was seen at once that there was only one team in the game. 3 wickets fell for one run and, though Witchell got into double figures, his 11 including one hit out of the ground, 7 were down for 17. Then Woodcock joined Lambie, and a plucky stand was made, both men showing a resistance to the bowlers which had not been seen yet. The effort was too late, however, and the innings only amounted to 49 when the last wicket fell. Witchell, Lambie, and Woodcock between them scored 40; the other eight men put together 3 runs. Bradford's straight bowling was too much for them. This win gives the A.O.C. a tremendous lead in the League table. Scores:—

A.O.C.	
Sergt.-Major T. Webb, not out	82
Corpl. Lillywhite, c Deveney, b Lander	19
Capt. Davies, l.b.w., b Lambie	63
Sergt. Skinner, c and b Lambie	0
J. Robinson, c Jackman, b Lambie	6
Extras	10
Total (4 wickets)	181
Innings declared.	
H. Turner, A. E. Hatwell, C. Rutter, E. Bradford, T. S. Bromley, and W. T. Burgess did not bat.	
CIVIL SERVICE C.C.	
A. G. M. Fletcher, b Bradford	1
H. F. Jackman, c Rutter, b Davies	0
J. Deveney, b Bradford	1
Dr. J. M. Atkinson, c Robinson, b Bradford	0
R. Witchell, c Webb, b Davies	11
P. T. Lambie, b Bradford	18
R. Ponsonby, b Bradford	0
L. E. Brett, b Bradford	0
G. A. Woodcock, b Turner	11
J. T. Robbins, c Robinson, b Turner	0
J. Lander, not out	1
Extras	6
Total	49

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

The sixth club race in the championship class was sailed on Saturday last in a moderate easterly breeze, which held true throughout the race. The course was round markboat in Quarry Bay, Channel Rocks, Cust Rocks Buoy, markboat in Quarry Bay, and Channel Rocks.

Elsbeth made a clever start inshore on port tack, and gained considerably thereby. *Dione*, *Vernon*, and *Aileen* chose the windward end of the line, and as they crossed the line at gunfiring they found the s.s. *Korea* bearing straight down on them. The yachts were on the starboard tack and held their course, but *Dione* in the windward berth, and therefore nearest the great steamer, had to bear away to avoid being run down. The steamer passed between the markboat at end of the line and the Police Pier, a most dangerous proceeding in the circumstances. Before Hung Hom Point was reached *Dione*, which had worked into the leading position, and *Vernon* had deprived *Elsbeth* of her lead. At the point the two leaders tacked and stood over to the Hongkong shore, and when *Vernon* tacked again she passed ahead of *Dione*. The latter was never able to get on terms again, though she pressed *Vernon* hard, and a fast sailed and well contested race ended in favour of *Vernon*.

Vernon only requires one more win to secure the championship.

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

The one-design class sailed their sixth club race on Sunday in an easterly breeze which varied between light and moderate during the afternoon. The start, against the tide, was a good one, *Min* being on the line at gunfire, and no boat more than a few seconds late in crossing. *Min* went about soon after the start, and succeeded in crossing *Colleen* by the narrow margin of six inches. *Kathleen* and *Colleen* held on towards the shore, on reaching which *Kathleen* went about and cleared *Colleen's* bow by a few feet. *Colleen* in her turn crossed *Min*, who appeared to have lost by keeping a little too far out in the tide-way. *Erica* was meanwhile working up the centre of the channel towards Meyer's Pier. *Bonito* followed the leaders up to East Point. Here *Kathleen* had a lead of something under a minute from *Min* and *Colleen*, who were sailing in close company. *Bonito* was not sailing well, and was already some distance astern. *Colleen*

now separated from the others and chose to sail on towards Channel Rocks, while *Kathleen* and *Min* preferred to hold on across the tide to the Hongkong shore. As the latter neared the island it was seen that *Erica* had lost considerably by her choice of course, and shortly after it became clear that *Colleen* had also dropped behind. The latter was at one time sailing in a nice northerly breeze, which would have put her ahead if it had lasted. The markboat was, however, in an easterly breeze, and *Colleen* lost ground in crossing from one wind to the other. The mark was rounded by *Kathleen* first, with *Min* about a minute behind, followed by *Colleen*, *Erica*, *Bonito*, in the order named. As the yachts neared Channel Rocks the wind backed to the north, necessitating a tack. Order at the Rocks was unchanged, and the intervals between boats unaltered. The run to Cust Rocks Buoy was decidedly uncomfortable, as the yachts kept running from the northerly into the easterly wind and back again, a gybe being necessary at each change. At the Cust Rocks it was seen that *Min* had pulled up on the leader and was now only some ten seconds behind. After the turn there was for the first time in the race a difference of opinion between the helmsmen of *Min* and *Kathleen* as to the best course to be sailed. The latter preferred to make straight for the Hongkong shore, while *Min* was put about and sailed on the starboard tack for some distance. When they met again *Min* crossed *Kathleen* by about 5 yards. Her triumph was, however, shortlived, as a shift of wind put *Kathleen* ahead again on the next tack some three minutes later. *Min* never regained her lead on the beat, and *Kathleen* reached the markboat 30 seconds ahead. The remainder of the class were some distance astern. The wind was now blowing fresh from the eastward, and the reach to Channel Rocks was a fast one. After rounding the Rocks *Min* slowly but surely drew up on *Kathleen*, and two hundred yards from the line was only half a length behind. She could gain no more, and *Kathleen* won the best-contested race of the season by 5 seconds, less than a boat's length.

HANDICAP CLASS.

The wind just suited *Chanticleer*, who won easily on time. *Iris*, in spite of a new suit of sails, did not appear to be going well, while *Doreen* showed much improved form. *Alannah* secured second place.

Times for Saturday.

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Vernon</i>	3	45	25
<i>Dione</i>	3	47	35
<i>Aileen</i>	3	57	40
<i>Elsbeth</i>	3	59	00

Times for Sunday.

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Kathleen</i>	3	48	00
<i>Min</i>	3	48	05
<i>Colleen</i>	3	56	05
<i>Erica</i>	3	56	50
<i>Bonito</i>	4	0	11

Corrected

	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.
<i>Alannah</i>	3	54	50	3	54	50 (2)
<i>Chanticleer</i>	4	0	0	3	51	45 (1)
<i>Iris</i>	4	4	20	3	57	55 (3)
<i>Doreen</i>	4	8	0	3	59	35
<i>Gloria</i>	4	9	8	4	2	43
<i>Payne</i>	4	18	22	4	4	37

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned at the quarterly meeting held from the 9th to the 11th January:—

MCEWEN CUP.

Mr. H. C. T. Dowding	86	—	8	=	78
Hon. G. Stewart	85	—	4	=	81
Mr. J. Johnstone	86	—	5	=	81
Dr. J. K. Raymond	90	—	9	=	81
Mr. J. Douglas	88	—	6	=	82
Mr. A. U. Campbell	89	—	7	=	82
Mr. N. J. Stabb	94	—	12	=	82
Mr. A. C. Butt	97	—	14	=	83
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	84	—	0	=	84
Mr. C. W. May	89	—	5	=	84
Mr. E. J. Grist	89	—	3	=	86
Mr. P. B. Scott	95	—	9	=	86
Mr. J. Stodard	98	—	12	=	86

33 entries.

BOGEY AND MARTIN CUP.

M. A. U. Campbell	1 up
M. N. J. Stabb	all square
Mr. John Johnstone	all square
Mr. H. C. T. Dowding	1 down
Mr. J. Douglas	1 down
Hon. G. Stewart	2 down
Mr. A. C. Butt	2 down
Mr. A. J. Williams	2 down
Mr. C. F. H. Beavis	3 down
Mr. P. R. Scott	6 down

33 entries.

POOL.

Mr. A. U. Campbell	84	—	7	=	77
Mr. J. K. Raymond	88	—	9	=	79
Hon. G. Stewart	85	—	4	=	81
Mr. John Johnstone	86	—	5	=	81
Mr. C. W. May	89	—	5	=	84
Mr. A. C. Butt	93	—	9	=	84
Mr. E. J. Grist	89	—	3	=	86

29 entries.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

FOUR-OARED RACES.

Crews for the V.R.C. four-oared scratch races to take place on Saturday, the 30th inst., have been selected. The races are mainly instituted for the purpose of trying new blood, and getting juniors into form. They will be the first scratch races of the year. If enough crews enter there will also be some gig-races. The crews selected are as follows:—

Thistle:—F. D. Bain (stroke), G. C. Cooke, F. Ancott, E. Millar.

Shamrock:—A. Humphreys (stroke), J. J. Watson, W. Goggin, J. H. Seth.

Kornblume:—G. A. S. Alves (stroke), F. P. Musso, F. de Silva, A. E. Asger.

Leek:—H. C. Austen (stroke), H. Loureiro, H. R. pp, A. J. V. Ribeiro.

Rose:—R. C. Witchell (stroke), H. A. Lammert, J. Cruickshank, H. W. Sayer.

Crews for the second race are:

Pose:—G. Witchell (stroke), L. E. Lammert, W. F. Andrews, S. R. Moore.

Leek:—S. M. Gidley (stroke), H. J. W. Gidley, A. Marti, E. Humphreys.

Kornblume:—H. S. Holmes (stroke), F. M. Roza Pereira, C. Humphreys, N. H. Alves.

Shamrock:—F. K. Tata (stroke), L. A. Musso, J. Lambert, J. M. Roza Pereira.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The Hongkong Chess Club's winter season is now in full swing, and two matches have already been played. On the 6th inst. Seniors met Juniors, five a side, and the latter, making an unexpectedly good fight, were only beaten by 3 games to 2. On Wednesday last, the 13th inst., the Club were opposed by a scratch team got together by Mr. P. W. Sergeant. Though lacking the services of the Hon. H. E. Pollock and Mr. E. J. Moses, the home team won a creditable victory by 4½ to 2½. The full score was as follows:—

H.K.C.C.		MR. SERGEANT'S TEAM	
M. J. I. anenberg	1	P. W. Sergeant	1
C. H. Falloon	1	Lt. P. H. Campbell	0
R. A. Dastur	1	H. Phillips	0
R. H. Newborn	1	F. Lawson	0
C. Cooper	0	G. A. Woodcock	1
W. W. Pelling	1	T. Swaby	0
W. Davies	0	J. H. Kemp	1
	4½		2½

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—

Commander.—T. L. Shelford, to the *Glory* (N), on recommissioning.

Lieutenants.—C. D. Carpendale, to the *Glory*, 1st and G, on recommissioning; T. Hardy (T), G. L. Saurin, W. B. Mackenzie, H. B. Kington, and R. S. Sneyd, to the *Glory*, additional, to date Dec. 22, and on recommissioning; H. L. Dicks, 1st and N, and H. C. Pocock, of the *King Alfred*; S. R. Miller, to the *King Alfred* (G), to date Dec. 22, and to the *Tamar* (G), undated; F. L. Attenborough (T), and H. Stansbury (G), to the *King Alfred*, undated.

Fleet Surgeons.—C. W. Buchanan, Hamilton, to the *Glory*, on recommissioning, undated; G. E. Geoghagan, to the *King Alfred*, for voyage home, undated; G. Wilson, M. B., to the *King Alfred*, on commissioning, to date Dec. 22, and to the *Leviathan*, undated.

Surgeons.—J. Martin and R. F. MacMahon, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22; and to the *Glory*, on recommissioning, undated; J. Thornhill, to the *Kinska*; H. Huskisson and J. G. Wallis, to the *King Alfred*, for voyage home, undated.

Sub-Lieutenants.—J. C. Davis and F. E. H. G. Hobart, to the *Glory*, on recommissioning.

Engineer-Commanders.—W. Hines, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22; and J. S. Watch, to the *Glory*, on recommissioning.

Engineer-Lieutenants.—W. G. Colquhoun, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22; F. G. Haddy, to the *Glory*, on recommissioning; and C. Main, to the *Ocean*, undated.

Engineer-Sub-Lieutenants.—G. W. Bodel, to the *Glory*, on recommissioning; P. Reeve, to the *Amphitrite*; E. Groves, F. J. Pedrick, and G. E. McEwen, to the *King Alfred*, undated; C. L. J. Rison and H. L. Hammond, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22, and to the *Glory*, on recommissioning; C. B. F. Le W. Rock, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22, and to the *Kinska*, on recommissioning; and A. V. Eldridge, to the *King Alfred*, undated.

Paymasters.—C. H. Rowe, to the *King Alfred*, to date Dec. 22.

Midshipmen.—W. H. N. Young, E. Brooke, and E. P. U. Broad, to the *Cressy*, A. S. Hyde Smith and E. W. Bulteel, to the *Blenheim*, and H. R. Troup, to the *Albion*, to date Dec. 22; S. P. Peatty to the *Albion*; J. T. Tenison and C. P. Ventris, to the *Ocean*; G. S. White to the *Eclipse*, and R. Poore, to the *Glory*, additional and on recommissioning, undated.

THE FISCAL QUESTION.

[BY X.]

Believing as I do that the adoption of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal programme would prove disastrous economically and politically to the British Empire, and more especially to the Mother Country, and in view of the opportunity which is being given to British residents to register their opinion on the question at the City Hall, I venture to submit a few reflections for consideration by those who are invited to vote.

It is well to inquire in the first place whether we are to regard—as we are very apt to do—this great and far-reaching question from a purely local and particular standpoint—to view it, that is to say, as citizens of Hongkong, or as citizens of the wide British Empire. The announcement of the poll does not call for an expression of opinion on the local bearing of the new policy. Indeed, before we can consider the question from a purely local standpoint it is essential that we should know more definitely than we do at present the nature of the proposals which would apply here. But, so far as we can form any idea of them, can we feel satisfied that they will beneficially affect the interests of this Colony? We may take it, I suppose, that the adoption of the new policy would entail the taxation of all our food supplies, for every article of food we consume has to be imported, and very little of it comes from British sources. Will that be helpful to the prosperity of Hongkong? Do we not already hear enough about the increased cost of the prime necessities of life from our employees as a reason for demanding higher wages? The policy again involves the taxation of "raw materials" imported from foreign countries. That proposal too has its local application, for though Hongkong is not a manufacturing centre we have at least one important industry on which the new policy would bear harshly. I allude, of course, to the sugar-refining industry. I stand open to correction on the point, but I think I am safe in saying that not one ounce of the raw sugar which comes to our local refineries is grown on British soil. When we bear in mind what this industry has already suffered in the Asiatic markets from the restrictive tariffs imposed by Japan and France we can hardly view with favour any proposal which involves an additional handicap.

But it is in its bearing upon the shipping interests of this port, which boasts the third largest shipping trade in the world, that we are most concerned, and we are in the position of not knowing what the new policy may involve in this respect. We complain of foreign subsidised steamship services cutting into trade which formerly was practically monopolised by British firms. But is British tonnage any the smaller on account of this increase of foreign competition? I seek the answer in the latest report of the Harbour Master, and I read that a comparison between the years 1901 and 1902 for vessels under the British flag shows an increase of 387 ships of 358,148 tons. It is only fair to quote this also from the Report: "These figures are, however, misleading, for river steamers are responsible for an increase of 397 ships of 157,539 tons. This leaves a net decrease of 10 ocean-going ships with an increase in tonnage of 200,609 tons." Of British ocean-going tonnage, 3,010,442 tons entered and 3,005,148 tons cleared in 1902. I consult the Report for 1899, and I see the figures were 2,587,478 tons entered and 2,587,369 tons cleared. I do not wish to disguise the fact that the percentage of increase in foreign shipping has been much greater; but I wish merely to point out that in point of tonnage we have not receded but substantially advanced. Our free-trade policy has given foreign shipping every facility to attack our trade. We have imposed no discriminating harbour or tonnage dues, and we have given them the same access to every league of our coastline as we give to our own ships, whilst our rivals rigorously exclude us from their "coastwise" trade. The temptation to retaliate is therefore great. Suppose we did retaliate in Hongkong; what effect would it be likely to have on the prosperity of the Colony? Would the foreign nations meekly submit, pay our charges and look pleasant? I think not. It would lead, not immediately perhaps, but inevitably to a scattering of our trade. When the Americans took possession of Manila we heard much of the boast that it would capture a large part of the trade of Hongkong; but that boast will be vain so long as Hongkong remains a free port. If England adopts the policy of retaliation, it would, of course, be absurd to expect that the other nations will "take it lying down." We are certain to see it acting as a spur to greater activity on their part, and we in Hongkong can hardly afford to disregard the temptation such a change in our own fiscal relations would offer to our commercial rivals to divert trade to other ports. However much we may find fault with our free trade policy the fact that Hongkong is incomparably more prosperous than any other port in Asia is eloquent testimony to the general soundness of the policy in which it has been nursed.

Is it not a little significant, too, that while we are talking loudly of retaliation the Americans in the Philippines are demanding a very substantial reduction in their tariff?

Turning now from the local to the imperial aspect of the question, I can only in a single article glance at a few of the most striking points that must appeal to all students of the question. Mr. Chamberlain has advanced two main reasons for his enterprise. He sounds in the first place the alarm that we are being attacked by our commercial rivals on all sides, and he advocates a closer bond of union with the Colonies by the establishment of a system of mutual trade preferences. Now it cannot be said that in our foreign trade we are losing ground, but only that the percentage of increase in our trade is not so great as that of our commercial rivals. Of course, it is not; the percentage of a new country like that of a new firm of it is pushing its trade at all must always be greater than that of the old established firm. The British Board of Trade returns exhibit no grounds for dismay. On the contrary we find that our foreign and Colonial trade is steadily on the increase. In 1898 the total was £764,559,000, in 1902, it rose to £877,630,000. An increase of £113,000,000 in four years is not evidence that England has been badly hit by these attacks, and I fancy there are many nations which would enjoy being "attacked" in the same way. In whatever direction we look we find that old England is, as Sir Henry Blake said of Hongkong, "instinct with boundless

prosperity." British exports in the last four years have shown an increase of more than 20 per cent.; deposits in savings-banks have steadily and substantially increased, and our investments abroad during the last twenty years have more than doubled. Nor can it be disputed that the people of the old country are better housed, better clothed, and better fed than they have ever been before. Mr. Chamberlain is doing his best to persuade the working men of the United Kingdom that they will be infinitely better off under a policy of protection than under free-trade; that is an assertion which needs a great deal to support it—a great deal more than it is in the power of Mr. Chamberlain to supply. Will anyone seriously contend that the lot of the labourer and the artisan in any of the great protectd countries—Germany, the United States, or France—is preferable to that of the same class in England? The evidence points conclusively in the opposite direction.

"I have looked," said Lord Goschen recently, "into the reports of the German factory inspectors, the men who have investigated the position of the German working classes, and I say that if these factory reports could be circulated among our working class population we should hear very little about the benefits which protection can afford. Their industrial institutions have meant forced sales. They have sent goods to this country at low prices, and mainly they have fleeced the consumer at home. They have made the consumer at home pay much more than was ever paid by the foreigner. 'We are helping the foreigner by giving him cheap food,' says one of these reports, 'and we are penalising our people by forcing up the price of food, by curtailing their ability to buy because we are weakening the whole social system by the imposition of these enormous taxes.' The statistics as regards employment in Germany and the general position of the industries of the country show a condition of things which Lord Goschen rightly said would not be stood in England. The factory inspector for Leipzig reports for the year 1902 as follows:—'The economic conditions of the workers have not improved during the past year, since the incomes of many workpeople have undergone a further diminution, partly owing to a reduction of wages and partly owing to curtailment of the hours of work, and since the prices of the most important articles of food have increased the endeavour to economise shows itself in the diminution of the consumption of meat and the larger demand for horseflesh.'

The United Kingdom would suffer more from protection than any other country because the greater proportion of the import trade of the country consists of foodstuffs and raw materials. Of these we obtain about 90 millions from the Colonies and 290 millions from foreign countries. "But," says the advocate of protection, "we have in our Colonies, particularly in Canada, vast tracts of virgin soil capable of producing all the grain we need. Handicap the foreign imports, and you will at once give the necessary fillip to increased cultivation." And what is the position of the British-taxpayer? What *quid pro quo* will he receive? Canada granted British goods a preference, but British trade with Canada diminished rather than increased because the tariff is still sufficiently protective to exclude British manufactures.

The British taxpayer will in his cool moments look at the matter from a purely selfish standpoint. We are to tax these 290 millions of foreign foodstuffs and raw material and in addition to tax by 10 per cent. all manufactured articles, so that the voter has to calculate not only upon a certain increase in the cost of his food, but also upon the enhancement of the cost of every ordinary necessary of life. Where is the attraction to the English elector when he places these facts alongside the facts of existence in the countries which already are protectionist? The prospect is not alluring. To tax food, as England must if she is to give a preference to the colonies, spells extortion from the poorer classes, whilst it leaves the wealthy practically unaffected. On reflection, it will be recognised that the poorer the man, the larger is the proportion of the tax he is called upon to pay upon bread and all articles of prime necessity on which a duty is levied.

Sir James Blyth, who is well known for the interest he displays in imperial agriculture, calculates that a duty levied on foreign corn sufficient to raise the price of wheat all round by 5s. per quarter would relatively fall as a percentage on income to the extent of 10 per cent. on a person earning 12s. a week, while a man with a revenue of £1,000 a year would pay a tax of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on his income. When Mr. Chamberlain was President of the Board of Trade he held that "A tax on food would mean a decline in wages. It would certainly involve a reduction in their productive value; the same amount of money would have a smaller purchasing value." Mr. Chamberlain does not think so now. Nevertheless, this seems sound economic doctrine, and I know of no instance in which it has proved fallacious.

The Duke of Devonshire has calculated that Mr. Chamberlain's scheme will entail a loss to the consumer of at least 35, and possibly, 50 millions, and it would provide a subsidy—for that is really what it amounts to—of only 2½ millions to the Colonies. An important point is, how would this subsidy be divided among the Colonies? The Duke works it out that Canada would get 3s. 2d. per head; Australia would get 1s. 1d.; New Zealand would get 6s. 8d. per head; and South Africa would get the magnificent sum of 3d. per head of its white population. India and the Crown Colonies would get nothing. India and South Africa are the best customers for British exports. Yet this is the reward which they are to receive under this scheme, which purports to be a scheme for the fiscal unification of the Empire. Let us reflect on this and we shall begin to see that this network of commercial treaties would be fatal to friendly relationship between the Colonies and the mother country, for when we come down to concrete illustrations of the working of the scheme we can see what a tempestuous time the mother is likely to have with her offspring. The policy bristles with difficulties which must tend to disintegrate rather than bind the colonies to the motherland.

U.S. CONSULS IN CONTROVERSY.

The *New York Herald* publishes, with sub-heads reporting "Charges Filed Against John Goodnow, Who Seeks the Scalp of John Fowler," and "Disclosures Expected Affecting the Administration of More Than One Consular Post in China," details of a controversy which will interest residents, particularly American residents, in China. The *Herald* says:—

"Serious charges against United States Consul-General John Goodnow at Shanghai, China, have been filed with the Department of State, and he is now in this country hastening to Washington to answer them. United States Consul John Fowler, whose post is Chefoo, China, is also bound to Washington with the avowed intention of obtaining Mr. Goodnow's official scalp. In the State Department it is expected Mr. Goodnow will try to return the compliment. Those who have their eye on this bitter inter-consular war predict startling disclosures affecting the administration of more than one consular post in China and showing a condition of affairs which will at least draw the light of official consideration. The charges against Mr. Goodnow, who has served in Shanghai since 1896, when he was appointed to the consular service from Minnesota, are brought by George F. Curtis, an attorney of Shanghai, and they are believed to include malfeasance and destruction of documents. It is around the quarrel between Mr. Fowler and Mr. Goodnow that most attention centres. It is said Mr. Goodnow incurred the enmity of Mr. Fowler by dealing harshly in his consular capacity in Shanghai with a person attached to the United States Consulate in Chefoo. Whether Mr. Goodnow has a distinct grievance against Mr. Fowler or is merely hitting back is unknown here, but many persons think the quarrel which has reached around the world is so bitter that China will be in the future too small for both of the principals."

The *Herald* also publishes the two following despatches:—

"San Francisco, Cal., Friday.—When the statement was printed last week that George F. Curtis, of Shanghai, had filed a complaint against John Goodnow, American Consul-General at Shanghai, Mr. Goodnow said:—'Curtis has, as an attorney, been insulting and obstreperous before the Consular court at Shanghai, and I came near disbaring him. I have not heard that he intends suing my bondsmen for \$40,000, nor have I heard that he has sent on charges to the President against me. If he charges me with malfeasance in office, he has done something which is malicious and false. He is a bitter enemy of mine, simply because I will not let him have his own way in the Consular Court over which I have jurisdiction. My conduct in the Ballantine affair was above board and perfectly straight. The Philippines authorities telegraphed me to arrest him in China on a charge of smuggling Chinese into the Philippines. He had fled from Manila to China. I did arrest him later, I refused to release him on *habeas corpus*, and at the request of the Philippines authorities sent him back to Manila. Legally and in any other way my conduct can be defended in that affair.'"

"Boston, Mass., Friday.—Charges are to be made against Consul-General Goodnow by John Fowler, Consul in Chefoo, but what will be alleged Mr. Fowler refuses to disclose. 'Because of a department rule I cannot say a thing about the matter,' said Mr. Fowler, when seen to-night at his mother's home, No. 7 Ashburton Place."

HONGKONG.

Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works, goes home on the 1st April on leave. During his absence Mr. P. H. Jones, Assistant D.P.W., will act in his stead.

On the 9th inst., Mr. Kemp sat in judgment in the small court at the Magistracy for the last time. He goes from its walls to take up the position of Assistant-secretary of the Sanitary Board, and his departure is regretted by all with whom he has had dealings.

On Wednesday morning the captains of the German war-ships *Moewe* and *Luchs* paid official visits to H.E. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., and Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B. The captain of the *Moewe* is Capt.-Lieut. von Grumbkow; he arrived here a few days ago by the s.s. *Syria* to take over command of a vessel for some time in charge of an acting appointment. The other captain, Capt. Kroencke, is a new arrival, the *Luchs* having only come here a few days ago.

A complimentary farewell concert was given on Wednesday in the S. Patrick's Club to Messrs. W. T. Burgess and W. F. Rogers, two gentlemen who have done good service during their stay in the Colony by way of giving their services at benefit and charitable entertainments. The wet night apparently had a bad effect upon the attendance, which was not large though the hall was fairly well filled. Mr. C. Wood was master of ceremonies; the excellence of the programme did credit to him and to the various artistes who sustained it. These included the beneficiaries themselves, also Messrs. W. Robins, H. Wisby, G. Varney, H. E. Gilbert, H. Neal, C. Wood, H. Nash, and H. McLean (pianist). A farce, *My wife won't let me*, by Messrs. Burgess, Wood, Varney, Gilbert and Rogers brought the entertainment to a close.

At 4 p.m. on Tuesday the Hongkong Observatory hoisted signals to the effect that there was a depression to the N.W. of Shantung; centre moving towards the east. On Wednesday morning a glance from the hill showed that we also had a depression, and a very disagreeable one too, at Hongkong. The harbour was so enveloped in mist that not only was the Kowloon Peninsula invisible, but also vessels in harbour. As the day went on weather developed from Scotch mist into drizzling rain, soon putting thoroughfares in a muddy condition. It was almost impossible to take refuge on the pavements on account of the numerous Chinese crowded there, going along at a snail-like speed. Chinese require teaching, for the general benefit, that an umbrella balanced on the shoulder is very dangerous to other people and that rain does not fall from ceilings of verandahs.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 14th January, 1904, were 233 non-Chinese and 9 Chinese to the former, and 62 non-Chinese and 2,275 Chinese to the latter institution.

The date of the Hongkong A.D.C.'s performance of *His Excellency* is not yet definitely fixed, but it will be before China New Year (the 16th prox.). During Rice Week (23rd-27th prox.) the Dallas Company will be once more playing at the Theatre Royal.

H.M.S. *Alacrity*, with Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge on board, arrived from Shanghai on Thursday evening. Admiral Bridge, it will be remembered, was to have arrived here before, but was stopped at Shanghai by telegram on account of the threatening aspect of affairs. We do not know whether more hopeful prospects are to be inferred now.

The Portuguese Minister to Peking, H.E. Conselheiro Jose d'Azevedo Castello de Branco, who arrived at Macao from Europe via Hongkong not long ago, returned here by the s.s. *Heungshan* on Monday H.E. left for Shanghai by the M.M. mail s.s. *Ernest Simons* next evening, being accompanied on board by Conselheiro A. G. Romano (Consul General for Portugal). After spending eight or ten days at Shanghai H.E. will proceed to Peking and Tientsin.

Several complaints have reached us regarding the want of supervision and control of the natives waiting outside the Court at the Magistracy, which makes it most unpleasant for Europeans whose business calls them thither, and who do not care to sit in the Court while waiting for the calling on of the special case in which they are interested. Coolies of the lowest type, it appears, crowd at the very doors of the Court room and jostle, unreprieved, Europeans and respectable Chinese, while at the same time they smoke vile so-called cigarettes, and expectorate freely wherever they happen to be standing. This would scarcely appear to be as it should be, and is certainly deserving of the attention of the authorities concerned.

The children of the Kowloon School gave two very pretty performances of the comic cantata *Old King Cole*, on the 8th and 9th inst. These performances were given in aid of the Ministering Children's League, and were a pronounced success both from an artistic and financial point of view. All the children taking part were letter-perfect, and much credit is due to Mrs. Donaldson for the result of her coaching in the dances, and to Mr. W. Stewart for his efficient stage-managing. The play was written by Messrs. W. Young and F. Pascal, and the children taking part were Misses Mary Stewart, B. Kennett, D. Lamport, M. Ammert, J. Craik, A. Logan, M. Wilson, T. McNeil, G. Ferguson, McNeil, L. Neare, Lizzie Vanstone, L. Logan, R. Macke, A. Macdonald, S. Lowe, E. Packham, and Irene Newton; Masters A. Stewart, Harold Perkins, L. Focken, T. Macdonald, A. Martin, J. Jack, A. Christenson, W. Robertson, C. Hoskins, H. Stewart, J. Huegg, W. McNeil, J. McGlashen, E. Packham, L. Macdonald, T. Martin, and G. Focken.

Parties of men landed from the British warships *Albion*, *Ocean*, *Centurion*, *Talbot*, *Amphitrite*, and *Eclipse* on Thursday morning at 7.30, and proceeded to Happy Valley for instruction in rifle and field exercise on the new system—the first instruction they have received at Hongkong on these lines. Officers directing the drill were Commander Jones, H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, Gunnery-Lieutenant Dickenson, H.M.S. *Talbot*, and Lieutenant Wellington Smith of the *Ocean*. The band of the *Vengeance* was in attendance. Blue-jackets were dressed in blue with straw hats, black boots, brown canvas sea-service gaiters, sword-bayonets, and Lee-Enfield, Mark 2 rifles; they formed a very picturesque spectacle. Men from the *Centurion*, by the way, had new leather gear, new pattern sword-bayonets, and carbines. Midshipmen wore white cap covers, monkey jackets, gaiters, and swords. The drill is much the same as that of the marines, and the sailor-men did not seem to like it a bit. They went through the movements of attack, wheeling in line, forming a square, preparing for cavalry, marching past, and developing in line. Drill terminated shortly before eleven o'clock, when the men returned to their respective ships.

We are officially authorised to state that subject to audit, the directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1. 10s. per share, a bonus of 10s. per share, add to the reserve fund \$500,000, and carry forward about \$1,400,000.

The somewhat musty mortality returns for September last are published in the *Gazette*, 463 deaths were recorded in that month, 21 in the European and foreign community (18 civilians, 2 Army, 1 Navy), and 442 among the Chinese, 32 deaths were due to malaria, and 114 to chest affections. The British and foreign civil death-rate was 21.4 per 1,000 per annum; the Chinese, 17.3; and the whole civil community's, 17.4.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during December, 1903, are certified by the managers of the respective banks:—

Banks.	Average Specie Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...	\$ 3,391,749	2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	13,044,183	7,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	445,630	150,000
Total	\$16,880,562	9,650,000

At 7 a.m. on Thursday one-half of the members of the Fire Brigade turned out for practice at the City Hall. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Deputy C.S.P., and Chief Inspector Baker were in charge of the men, and Sergeant R. Macdonald assisted in the exercises, which consisted in the manipulation of telegraphic ladders, bamboo ladders, despatch-boxes, and hose-reels. Some very good and useful work was put in and some excellent exhibitions of speed were given. The Brigade have been training during the last six weeks outside the Fire Station. They are going to carry on their exercises, we understand, one-half on Thursday mornings, the other on Fridays; and in all probability an exhibition will be held about the middle of February either on the Cricket Ground or the Parade Ground.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Advices from Newchwang, dated the 19th December, stated that the river above and below Yinkao was frozen hard, but that abreast of the Settlement there was drift ice only.

The *Waiwupu* (Chinese Foreign Office) makes it a rule to send copies daily of Reuter's telegrams received by the Board to the Palace, for the Empress Dowager's perusal.

It is stated that at Port Arthur now vessels entering and leaving the harbour are conducted by a pilot-boat, it is supposed to avoid any danger of running on the torpedoes which are presumed to be laid.

The recently-purchased Chilean battle-ship *Libertad*, now the property of the British Government, is to be named the *Triumph*, taking the place on the Navy List of the recently withdrawn ship of that name, which formerly did guard duty on the Pacific Station.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Portugal, Dom Luiz Filipe, starts in March on a tour through the Portuguese and British Colonies in Africa and India. It is hoped that he may come on to Timor and Macao. He completes his 17th year on the 21st March next and will apparently commence his tour immediately afterwards.

The Bank of Japan has been victimised in a curious manner. On the 28th ult. a man presented a cheque for 3,000 yen. The cheque was in order, and after the usual examination the amount arrived at the paying-out counter. There the incident occurred. By some unexplained process the money never reached the hands of the presenter of the cheque. After long waiting he became surprised at the delay and enquired the cause, whereupon it transpired that some unknown individual had interposed, received the thirty thousand yen and taken himself away. The precincts of the Bank were at once placed under police guard and a strict search was instituted. But of course it proved fruitless.

In view of the possibility of a Russo-Japanese war, the Italian Government has ordered the cruiser *Vettor Pisani* to remain at Nagasaki.

The German Consul at Chinanfu, Dr. Lange, died there suddenly on the afternoon of 8th inst. from heart failure, leaving a widow and one daughter.

It is rumoured in Peking that the control of the Russo-Chinese Bank is to be transferred from the Ministry of Finance to a Special Commission.

Viceroy Yuan, says the Shanghai *Tung Wen Hu Pao*, has resigned his post as Director-General of the railway, so that he may devote all his time to the reorganisation of the Chinese army.

The *Novoe Vremya* last month announced that the survey for a railway from Urga to Peking has been completed, and that everything is in readiness for constructing such a highly important line of railway.

The *Straits Times* publishes a Penang telegram to the effect that there had been a gang robbery at Bidor on the Tapah Road, Perak, on the 5th inst. Mr. Davies was wounded. One highwayman was shot in four places and one was captured. The robbers were being pursued.

A Japanese Imperial Ordinance decrees that in case of necessity a Lieutenant-General or Vice-Admiral shall be nominated by the Emperor to command the military and naval forces in Formosa, under the orders of the Governor-General, but he may act independently in any pressing emergency.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—A painful sensation was caused in the Settlements on 6th inst. when it became known that Mr. R. Schwind of the Russo-Chinese Bank had been arrested on a charge of embezzling about Tls. 12,000 from his employers. Mr. Schwind was arrested on a German-Consular warrant yesterday morning and was brought up before Mr. Maenass, H.I.G.H. Vice-Consul. The proceedings were of a private nature and it is understood that there will not be another hearing for some days. Meanwhile the accused is to be kept in custody at the British Consular Gaol. Defalcations having been alleged against another member of the staff of the Bank, who recently left for home, a warrant for his arrest has been telegraphed to Singapore by the German Consular authorities.

Mr. W. H. Taft, Governor of the Philippines and coming U.S. Secretary for War, nearly met with an accident at Kobe on the 3rd inst. He was driving with Mr. Sharp, U.S. Vice-Consul at Kobe, in a carriage and pair along Moto-machi, in the Foreign Settlement, when a loud report of fire-crackers immediately in front caused the horses to bolt. The driver lost control of the animals, and the position in the narrow and busy street was one of great danger. Both Mr. Taft and Mr. Sharp stood up in the carriage, and each seizing a rein endeavoured to hold the horses in. Whether because of Mr. Taft's greater strength on the rein—or from some other cause, suddenly the horses swerved and ran into a wall at a street corner, and at this time Mr. Taft and Mr. Sharp were holding so tightly on the reins that the horses pawed the air. However, they were brought to a standstill with little damage.

Dr. Morrison telegraphed to the *Times* on the 11th ult.:—Another telegram from St. Petersburg was circulated in Peking yesterday. It announces that Russia accepts the Japanese demands regarding Corea with certain modifications. The question of the evacuation of Manchuria is to be left in abeyance. It is undeniable that the repetition of such messages coupled with the long delay, is having a tendency to shake China's confidence in Japan, and to influence the Chinese to consider more favourably Russian demands regarding Manchuria. Lien-fang, the only Minister of the *Waiwupu* who speaks a foreign language, has resumed close relations with the Russian Legation, while the weight of the French Minister's influence is naturally used in advising China to come to a speedy agreement with Russia and legalise the Russian position in Manchuria. Prince Ching is always irresolute, but Na-tung, whose reappointment to the *Waiwupu* is advantageous to Japan, stands firm and declines to believe inspired telegrams from St. Petersburg.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CAN-ON, 31st Dec., 1903.—There is little of interest to report in this issue owing to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Re-reels.—No transactions have taken place since our last circular. Filatures.—Demand has been rather quiet during this fortnight and there is no sign of improvement; however, dealers are firm and with advancing exchange business is not facilitated. From purchases made we quote: Sam Yu Yee 9/11 at \$920, Cheong Hing 11/13 at \$900, Kwong Lun Fung 10/12 at \$830. Short-reels.—Few transactions have taken place from which we can quote \$900 for Kwong Shun Ching, \$855 for Kwong Lun Hing. Waste Silk.—Some demand at low prices but dealers are not willing to give way in prices.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son in their Circular, state:—The home market are quiet. Raw Silk.—A few small settlements are reported in Tsatlees, and a fair business has been done in Kahings. The rapid rise in exchange has practically paralysed business for the time being. Yellow Silk.—Mienchews continue to be in demand but at lower price. Hand Filatures.—A few settlements are reported at prices given below, the market closing very weak. Steam Filatures.—We only hear of a few transactions. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 15th January.—There is no change in prices as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.65 to \$8.70	pcul.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.65 to 7.70	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.10 to 6.15	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.55 to 8.60	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.60 to 7.65	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85	"
Koochow Sugar Candy.....	12.90 to 12.95	"
Shekloong ".....	10.75 to 10.80	"

RICE.

Hongkong 15th January.—A further decline in prices is reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.00 to \$3.05
" Round, Good quality.....	4.60 to 4.65
" Long.....	4.75 to 4.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Garden, " No. 1.....	4.40 to 4.45
" White,.....	4.80 to 4.85
" Fine Cargo.....	5.20 to 5.25

OPIUM.

Quotations are:—Allowance 14th January.—

Malwa New.....	\$950	to \$970	per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$990	to \$1,010	do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,030	to \$1,050	do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,170	to \$1,190	do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$910	to —	do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$920	to —	do.
Patna New.....	\$1,255	to —	per chest.
Patna Old.....	—	to —	do.
Benares New.....	\$1,252½	to —	do.
Benares Old.....	—	to —	do.

HONGKONG, 14th January. The movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian				
Stocks as per circular of				
20th ult., 1903.	1,394	1,351	785	2,140
Jan. 2nd Imports per Bengal	457	200	50	172
" 6th " " A. Apear	—	73	25	—
" 12th " " Ernest Simons	—	121	19	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,851	1,745	879	2,312
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.	122	708	261	306

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,729 731 462 2,016

Bengal.—The market is steady, and the Chinese are buying for their immediate requirements, so Stocks in their hands are moderate. We quote Patna and Benares at \$1252½.

Malwa.—The market is quiet the demand being very small and only new drug.

New.....	\$950
2-3 years old.....	\$900
4-5 " ".....	\$1,080
Oldest.....	\$1,070

Persian.—The Market is firm at \$900 for good bricks and cones.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 15th January.—Market quiet, prices are lower by \$2. Stock about 1,730 bales.

Bombay.....	25.00 to 27.00	picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon.....	27.00 to 30.00	"
and Dacca.....	—	"
Shanghai and Japanese.....	29.00 to 30.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	29.00 to 31.00	"

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, Jan. 15th says:—The steady and large advance in the value of silver has had the effect of again disorganizing our market and curtailing business. The new settlements effected during the last fortnight comprise a few forced sales, but prices realized cannot be accepted as a fair indication of the market. Holders are anxious sellers, and would willingly submit to greater concessions if any large quantity could be placed, but for anything beyond actual requirements dealers will not offer at any price. The fluctuations in exchange during the next week or two will be anxiously watched by both buyers and sellers, as on them depend, in a great measure, the extent and duration of the winter demand usual at the close of the Native year.

Latest telegrams from Bombay make that market very strong with spinners disinclined to sell, owing to extreme rates of raw cotton and prospects of much restricted shipments later on.

Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet but firm. Japanese Yarn:—Sales reported amount to 500 bales No. 20s, say 350 bales Settsu at \$137 to \$138, and 150 bales Miike at \$135 to \$136. Close weak.

Raw Cotton:—There has been nothing doing in Indian descriptions. Extreme rates have checked consumption, and a concession of \$2 to \$3 per picul has failed to attract dealers, who still hold the greater portion of their late heavy purchases. Estimated unsold stock about 3,000 bales. In China Cotton, sales of about 150 bales Thoongchow at \$32 are reported, stock 250 bales. Quotations are: Indian \$27 to \$30 and Chinese \$30 to \$34.

Exchange on India has continued to advance in sympathy with silver and closes to-day at Rs. 137½ for T/T and Rs. 137½ for Post, showing an advance of nearly nine points during the fortnight. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 91½.

The undernoted business in imported and local yarns is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 31st ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 725 bales comprising 35 bales No. 40s, 500 bales No. 10s, 70 bales No. 12s, 50 bales No. 16s, and 70 bales No. 20s, prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 44,000 bales.

Japanese:—Have ruled firm and sales of about 1,500 bales have been effected at Tls. 89½ to 94½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 97 to 101 for No. 20s. market closing weak.

Local:—The market is quiet and the only transaction reported is a small parcel of 50 bales No. 14s, at Tls. 96.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Trade Report of 7th January, state:—The year has opened in anything but an auspicious manner, and with every promise of a continuance of the vicissitudes that will make the past twelve months memorable. The market was subject, during that period, to the most violent fluctuations, owing to the sudden changes in the conditions by which it is governed, so much so that during the whole time it was practically impossible to look more than three or four days ahead with any safety. The Native dealers, usually so astute, have found the fluctuations of exchange most puzzling, and have generally managed to do the wrong thing; but the recent rise has assisted many in their later transactions to make up for some of the past losses. Everything now turns on the near future course of events, and the uncertainty as to whether there is to be war or not has become almost unbearable, the general feeling being that if it does not come at once it will only be postponing the evil day to a less opportune moment for the fulfilment of what most people in business here desire. It is impossible to describe our market as, under the circumstances, it is in a decidedly mixed state, there being no uniformity in the sales which are made, everything depending on the different conditions under which the goods were bought and financed against. At present, for instance, many re-sales are being made under the equivalent of the real price they were purchased at, owing to the more favourable exchange obtainable to-day. This naturally has a weakening effect on the market and consequently prices have a declining tendency at auction. On the other hand it has been possible in a few instances to put some indent business through. The stringency that has lately

come over the Native money market is a most important factor, and is now exerting its full mead of influence, as to that may be attributed the falling off in clearances. This is entirely due to the war scare, as the native bankers are calling in their loans and curtailing credit generally. The rise in the price of cotton in Liverpool at the close of the year was evidently owing to "shorts" squaring up. Quotations suffered a smart drop immediately afterwards, private advices making it as low as 6.75d. The public telegram yesterday advised it as 7.02d, but to-day we hear private wires are in making it 7.22d. While speculators continue to play such havoc with the market it will be impossible to carry on legitimate business. One of our leading firms received a telegram this morning from their Manchester friends saying (Mr. Henry Neill's final estimate of the crop is 11,225,000 bales, which is a million and a quarter bales over the official estimate. Evidently not much faith is put in this in Manchester, where the market is steady at the advance. The export of plain cotton last month to Hongkong and China was 32,000,000 yards, which makes the total for the year about 334,000,000 yards. The advices from the States are as strong as ever, the home consumption there exceeding the production, consequently quotations can only be purely nominal for export goods, but operators here are scarcely likely to pay on the basis 11s. 8½d. for 3-yard sheetings as they are now quoted. Rather less business has been done in Indian yarns as few sellers are willing to accept lower prices even with the improvement in the exchange. The Bombay market is firm, and the Greaves Cotton Company's mills have decided to close entirely for a month, while others are working short time.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 15th January,

Beans.....	\$3½
Borax.....	\$17½ @ 18½
Camphor (China).....	\$96
" (Formosa).....	\$—
Cassia (First quality).....	\$23 @ 24
" (Second ").....	\$15 @ 15½
" Oil.....	\$165 @ 170
Cloves.....	\$12 @ 39
Fennel Seed Oil.....	\$318 @ 321
Galangale.....	\$24 @ 5½
Garlic.....	\$—
Glue.....	\$27
Grapes.....	\$19½
Ivory.....	\$200 @ 675
Kismiss.....	\$15 @ 20
Olibanum.....	\$5 @ 25
Rosa Oil.....	\$60 @ 180
Saltpetre.....	\$10½ @ 10½
Sandal wood.....	\$27 @ 30
" Oil.....	\$350 @ 400
Senna Leaves.....	\$4 @ 7
Sugar Candy.....	\$40½ @ 10½
Vermillion.....	\$86 @ 89
Wax.....	\$43 @ 50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

HANKOW, 6th January. The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls	35.00
Do. seconds.....	29.50
Buffalo hides, best selected.....	23.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour).....	65.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each).....	10.60
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi).....	12.00
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu).....	11.45
Green China Grass (Szechuen).....	11.50
Jute.....	5.0
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow).....	11.50
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingohew and/or Macheng).....	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu).....	9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu).....	14.50
Animal Tallow.....	11.25
Gallnuts (usual shape).....	19.50
Do. (Plum) do.....	21.00
Tobacco, Tin chow.....	18.00
Black Bristles.....	20.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck).....	8.60
Turmeric.....	4.20
Sesamum Seed.....	7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil.....	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil.....	8.10
Wood Oil.....	9.00
Tea Oil.....	9.00

Per M. M. Steamer *Salasie*, sailed on 27th Dec. For Marseilles:—198 bales raw silk, 6 bales waste silk, 5 cases silks, 30 bales hair, 33 cases sundries, 18 cases ilangilang. For Lyons:—25 bales raw silk. For London:—25 bales waste silk.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 15th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	10/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 ⁵ / ₈
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 ³ / ₈
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 ⁹ / ₈
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 ¹¹ / ₈
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 ¹¹ / ₈
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	
233 ¹ / ₂	
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight	237
On demand	90
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	
15 ¹ / ₂	
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 ¹ / ₂
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	
137 ¹ / ₂	
Bank, on demand	137 ¹ / ₂
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
137 ¹ / ₂	
Bank, on demand	137 ¹ / ₂
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
71 ¹ / ₂	
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
9 ¹ / ₂	
ON MANILA.—On demand	
nominal	
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
nominal	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
111 ¹ / ₂	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
1 p.c. pm.	
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
1 p.c. pm.	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
64	
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
\$10.75	
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	
57	
BAR SILVER, per oz.	
27 ¹ / ₂	

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th January, 1904.—The unsettled state of the political situation has had a very depressing effect on our market during the past week, and but little business has been transacted. Banks have improved in London but locally the rate is lower than the ruling quotation of a week ago.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai under the pressure of selling orders, fell to \$640 yesterday, at which rate sales were effected but close somewhat firmer with buyers at \$642¹/₂. The London rate after dropping to £58 has rapidly advanced, and closes firm at £63. 10-0d. Nationals have jumped to \$35 with sales and further buyers at the rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold and continue on offer at \$490. China Traders are weak at \$56. Other quotations are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold at the reduced rate of \$500. Chinas are quiet with probable sellers at \$92¹/₂.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are still out of favour, and a few shares are procurable at \$31. Indo-Chinas have sold at \$72 and \$72¹/₂, and close without feature at the former rate. China and Manilas have been booked at \$16, and Douglases at \$30, the latter closing with further sellers. Star Ferries are unchanged at \$30 (old) and \$19 (new) with probable sellers of both issues. Shell Transports have declined to 21/- sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugar have been booked at \$103 for settlement delivery and at \$102 cash closing with cash sellers at the higher quotation. Unions at \$10 sellers do not attract attention.

MINING.—No business is reported under this head, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks advanced to \$210 during the early part of the week, but at the close are somewhat easier with a few shares probably obtainable at \$209. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$95. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$38. Farnhams have been done locally at Tls. 122 and Tls. 122¹/₂ and close in further request.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in fair request, and sales up to \$158 have been effected the stock closing in further request at \$57. Kowloon Lands continue in demand at \$36 without finding sellers. West Points have been booked at \$2¹/₂ and more shares are enquired for. Hongkong Hotels are quiet at \$147. Humphreys Estates are wanted at \$11. Shanghai Lands, which are now added to our list, are quoted at Tls. 107.

COTTON MILLS.—Internationals have dropped to Tls. 22¹/₂ in the North, and Laon Kong Mows to Tls. 37¹/₂. Hongkongs have been booked locally at \$15¹/₂.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are wanted at \$24¹/₂. Watsons have sold at \$14¹/₂.

Fenwicks have improved to \$50 with sales. Ices are easier with sellers at \$24¹/₂. China Providents have been again done at \$9.80, and Watkins at \$7¹/₂. Lowells can be placed at \$9.40.

MEMO.—China Provident Loan & Mortgage Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting to-morrow the 16th instant. Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 21st instant. West Point Building Co., Ltd. and Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 27th instant. transfer books close on the 16th inst. National Bank of China Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 30th instant, transfer books close to-morrow.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$642 ¹ / ₂ , buyers £100, £63 10s
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$35, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$35, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$400, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 69
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300
China Fire	\$20	\$92 ¹ / ₂
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$31
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$72
China and Manila	\$50	\$16, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$19, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$103, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$6.00, sellers
Raub	18/10	\$6, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$209
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$9 ¹ / ₂ , sales
New Amoy Dock	\$6 ¹ / ₂	\$38, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 122, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$57, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$5, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52 ¹ / ₂
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$147 [sellers]
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11, ex, now issue
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 52	Tls. 107
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 22 ¹ / ₂ , buyers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37 ¹ / ₂ , sales
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170, sales
Hongkong	\$10	\$15 ¹ / ₂ , sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24 ¹ / ₂ , buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8 ¹ / ₂ , buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 ¹ / ₂ , sales & sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 ¹ / ₂ , sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$7, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$20	\$1.40, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$5, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$24 ¹ / ₂ , sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$15 ¹ / ₂ , buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$2 ¹ / ₂ , buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebra Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.80, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$7 ¹ / ₂ , sales
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.40, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$10, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report dated Shanghai, Jan. 8th state:—Loans.—stocks are offering at quotations. No business reported. Since the date of our last circular (23rd December, 1903) the big settlement for the end of the year has passed through, and very satisfactorily, and prices ruling at the end of the year were maintained at the opening of January. Since then there has been a weakening of some of the stocks, particularly Langkats, due largely to the rise in exchange and an increasing tightness of money. We have prepared a table of appreciation and depreciation of stocks borne on our Market Report during 1903. The depreciation amounts to nearly fourteen millions. Of this sum, however, has to be noted a heavy depreciation in Shell Transport and Trading Co. Shares amounting to about 7¹/₂ million taels, also of Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. of nearly two millions. In these two stocks we are glad to say this port is not deeply interested; but it suffers principally through the depreciation in Farnham, Boyds, which amounts to a little over 3¹/₂ millions, and in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves of nearly two millions, while the port has benefited by an appreciation in Langkats of over 3¹/₂ millions. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6¹/₂. Business was resumed after the holidays on the 4th inst., the market opening very quietly. Banks. H. & S. Banks.—No business reported. Fire & Marine Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas were placed on the 4th inst. at Tls. 51¹/₂ January; 52, 51¹/₂ and 52¹/₂ March, and 51 April. On the 5th January, shares were placed at 51¹/₂, and for March at 53, 52¹/₂ and 52. On the 7th, March shares were placed at 51¹/₂ and to-day cash shares were placed at 51. Shanghai Tug Boats, ordinary shares, have been placed at Tls. 50 cash, and 52¹/₂ March. There is no other business to report in stocks under this heading. Docks and Wharves.—Farnhams, opened on the 4th with cash shares at \$120 and 122, and 125 March. On the 5th, 122, 121, 122¹/₂ and 122 cash; 123 Jan; 125 March; 123 and 126¹/₂ April. On the 6th at 122 cash and 124¹/₂ March. On the 7th at 122 cash; 122¹/₂ Jan; 124, 124¹/₂, and 125 March. The market closes quiet with sellers at these rates. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Cash shares have been placed at \$215 and March shares at \$20. Mining.—The only business reported is in Kaiping bearer scrip, at \$6.25 and \$6.30 cash. Lands.—Shanghais have been placed at \$106 for cash and 110 for March. Weiweiwei lands at Tls. 10. Industrial.—In Cotton Stocks, Laon Kung Mows have changed hands at \$37¹/₂ and Soy Chees at \$170. Ices have been placed at \$15 and Pulp at \$117¹/₂. Maatschappij, etc. in Langkats. The market opened on the 4th with sales for cash at \$314 and 315; 327¹/₂ and 330 March, and 332¹/₂ April. On the 5th cash shares were placed at 315, 317¹/₂ and 315, and for January 319/320; for March 323, 327¹/₂ and 330, and for April at 332¹/₂. On the 6th March shares were placed at 327¹/₂, and for April at 327¹/₂ and 329. On the 7th cash shares were placed at 310, and 305 and 307¹/₂; 307¹/₂ January; 322¹/₂, 317 and 320 for March. The market closes with small buyers at 80¹/₂ cash. Sumatras have been placed at \$52. Stocks and Hotels.—Astor Houses have been placed at \$29, and Centrals at \$26. Hall and Holtz at \$38. Miscellaneous.—No business reported. Loans.—Sellers of 5 per cent. debentures at par.

HOMeward FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co. in their Report dated Shanghai 7th inst. state:—Since last writing our homeward Freight market has remained very dull and cargo for any direction is quite unusually scarce even for this season of the year, and we are afraid there is not much chance of any improvement until after Chinese New Year, which takes place about the middle of February. Coastwise.—Rumours of war during the past fortnight have given quite an unexpected impetus to coal freight and rates jumped from 90 cents to \$1.15 and \$1.20 per ton from Japan to this, at which rate the market closes firm. For London and the Continent.—The steamer *Glenfarg* and *Denbighshire* are both sailing to-morrow to be followed by the steamer *Yangtze* and *Sanuki Maru* sailing for Marseilles, London and Antwerp on the 14th and 18th inst. respectively, and the steamer *Radnorshire* for Havre, London, Hamburg and Antwerp about end of the month. For Havre, Bremen and Hamburg.—The steamer *Ambria* sails to-day. For New York via Suez.—We have two boats again loading together on this berth, viz. the *Sikh* and the *Hudson*, and the latter will probable sail first as there is little or no cargo to be got by waiting here, although prospects in the South are no better from all reports. The *Sagami* has again been postponed, and will probable not load here before the end of the month.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 62/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre.—General 48/- net per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 net per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (overland).—Tea 1 1/4 G\$ cents per lb gross. To New York via Suez.—30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai.—tea, Taels 1.80 per ton of 18 half-chests. To Shanghai, General, Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th January.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is very much larger than of the preceding fortnight, and freights coastwise are firm. From Saigon to Hongkong, 7 and 8 cents per picul offering for small carriers, and there is not likely to be much demand in this quarter until February. To one port Philippines, 28 cents for prompt and 30 cents per picul for middle February loading; to Japan and Java, no inquiry for ready boats, but some for March shipment. North coast Java to Hongkong, 26 cents last and offering; to Japan, 32 cents per picul. Rangoon to Philippines, two fixtures reported, one at 47 1/2 and one at 48 cents per picul; to Japan, tonnage is wanted. Coal freights, firmer. From Moji to this, \$1.80; to Foochow, \$1.90; to Singapore, \$2; to Philippines, \$3.50. From Rajang to Hongkong, a small handy sized steamer has been closed on a lump sum basis, at \$8,750. Time charters. A fair business has been done, particulars as below. The following are the settlements:—

Prima—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Rajang to Hongkong (timber), \$8,750 lump sum.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Petrach—German steamer, 1,119 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.

Hounslow—British steamer, 1860 tons, Kuchinotzu or Moji to Hongkong, \$1.81 per ton.

Germanseus—German steamer, 1,575 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.

Chunsang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,119 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Claverburn—British steamer, 2,518 tons, Kuchinotzu or Karatzu to one or two ports Philippines, \$3.00 and \$3.10 per ton.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.00 per ton.

Dragoman—British steamer, 2,215 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.00 per ton.

Lor—Norwegian steamer, 869 tons, Moji to Foochow, \$1.90 per ton.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul (end January).

Independent—German steamer, 1040 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul (end January).

Apenrade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.

Quang-nam—French steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to one or two ports to Philippines, 26 and 30 cents per picul.

Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, Saigon to Hilo 30 cents per picul.

Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Rangoon to Cebu, 48 cents per picul.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 989 tons, Rangoon to Manila 47 1/2 cents per picul.

Sophie Rickmers—German steamer, 2,262 tons, three ports to north coast Java to one or two ports to Japan, 28 cents and 30 cents per picul.

M. S. Dollar—British steamer, 2674 tons, four ports north coast Java to one or two ports Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Nantau to Singapore, 17 cents per picul (salt).

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, one to two months, at \$5,000 per month.

Eise—German steamer, 903 tons, monthly, one month, at \$5,000 per month.

Thea—German steamer, 934 tons, monthly, ten months, at \$1,100 per month.

Taifu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, monthly, three months, at \$5,000 per month.

Tgr—Norwegian steamer, 1,417 tons, monthly, ten months, at \$7,600.

SHIPPING.

*ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

January—

- 10, Annam, French str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Benlomond, British str., from Moji.
- 10, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.

- 10, Denbighshire, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 10, Kweiyang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 10, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 10, Lyra, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Rugby, British str., from Christmas Isl.
- 10, Taiping Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 11, Dunay, Austrian str., from Moji.
- 11, Glenfarg, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 11, Hounslow, British str., from K'chintzu.
- 11, Keemun, British str., from Liverpool.
- 11, M. S. Dollar, British str., from Moji.
- 11, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 11, Shantung, German str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Australian, British str., from Kobe.
- 12, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 12, Lothair, Italian barque, from Calao.
- 12, Lugano, German str., from New York.
- 12, N'achew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 12, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 12, Palma, British str., from London.
- 12, Pronto, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 12, Toto Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 12, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 13, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
- 13, Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., from B'kok.
- 13, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
- 13, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Macduff, British str., from Singapore.
- 13, M. Struve, German str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Rambler, British str., from Amoy.
- 13, Taisang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 13, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
- 13, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Yochow, British str., from Wuhu.
- 14, Alacriy, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Anping, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 14, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 14, Hanyang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 14, Huroa, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 14, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from London.
- 14, Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 14, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
- 14, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 14, Pronto, German str., from Chefoo.
- 14, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 14, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.

January— DEPARTURES.

- 10, Amara, British str., for Moji.
- 10, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
- 10, Batavia, German str., for Vladivostok.
- 10, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
- 10, Marie Jebsen, German str., for Singapore.
- 10, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 10, Srombus, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, Taifu, German str., for Singapore.
- 10, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
- 11, Denbighshire, British str., for London.
- 11, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
- 11, Ocean, British battleship, for practice.
- 11, Pasha, British str., for Rangoon.
- 11, Prima, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 11, Purnea, British str., for Amoy.
- 11, Rugby, British str., for Yokohama.
- 11, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Taiping, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 11, Tetartos, German str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 11, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 11, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Albion, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
- 12, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Annam, French str., for Europe.
- 12, Ayr, British str., for Rangoon.
- 12, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for P'koi.
- 12, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Hoihow.
- 12, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
- 12, Dardanus, British str., for London.
- 12, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Glenfarg, British str., for London.
- 12, Gloamin, British str., for Singapore.
- 12, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Hopsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 12, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 12, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Savoia, German str., for Singapore.
- 12, Victoria, Norwegian str., for Rangoon.
- 12, Waihoia, British str., for Hoihow.
- 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Dunolly, British str., for Sydney.

- 13, Emma Luyken, German str., for Kobe.
- 13, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 13, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
- 13, Hansa, German str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 13, Keemun, British str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 13, Kweiyang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
- 13, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 13, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 13, Shantung, German str., for Singapore.
- 13, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Kobe.
- 13, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 13, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 14, Australian, British str., for Sydney, &c.
- 14, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
- 14, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Palma, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 14, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Yochow, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. S. J. Bridges, Mrs. F. H. Gantz, Rev. and Mrs. F. P. Gilman, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Southern, Miss M. S. uthern, Mrs. A. Sherwood, Mrs. C. J. Fuikl, Rev. Edw. Fowler, Archbishop J. J. Harty, Lieut.-Col. C. H. Lauchheimer, Prof. R. Peele, Misses W. Clark, F. B. Smith, T. H. Smith, E. A. O'Mara, and H. Vernon, Messrs. H. F. Bridges, W. H. Childs, M. Crook, F. K. Crumb, A. McDermid, J. Drake, R. Douglas, J. W. Duncan, A. J. Eveland, M. Friedman, J. G. Howard, A. K. Hitchcock, W. F. La Pointe, J. Lurie, M. B. Meyer, V. L. Minehart, W. W. Pettit, C. F. Pfefferle, W. G. Pottinger, J. A. Rathke, M. Scherr, L. E. Sparklin, J. A. Setton, C. H. Goodwin, F. H. Stagle, W. T. Townsend, W. F. Humphrey, H. M. Vantine, L. K. Kentwell, J. E. Gray, R. K. Kerkhoven, H. D. Thirkield, C. G. Barrett, J. C. Gibson, M. J. Bosch, and G. H. Gowen.

Per *S.S. Athenian*, from Kobe, Messrs. G. A. Maclean and R. Arkwright; from Shanghai, Miss. Bateman, Mr. F. F. Bateman; from Vancouver, Dr. J. H. Egbert, Messrs. Albert Villiger and Arthur C. Fort; from Shanghai, Mr. R. H. Bovet.

DEPARTED.

Per *Sachsen*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Zeldes, Mr. and Mrs. H. Maadl, Mrs. Grand, Miss. M. Johannsan, Messrs. O. Janson, I. Stampff, M. Ferrand, A. T. W. Ringhardt, G. G. Hoppler, J. C. C'cker, St. Ckler, N. Levied, A. B. Milman, Moller, M. Demazur, M. Lacroise, H. Lewis and M. Johannsen; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Billbrough; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. Oakley.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, for Shanghai, Mr. Kamano; for Yokohama, Messrs. B. A. Fisher and John Ryan; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sterling, Misses E. Mathis and Nichols, Lieut. O. Merlaker, Messrs. W. A. Edgar, G. R. Venable, and F. Pyne.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Ferrant, Messrs. F. Bontinon, N. A. Gonsalves, H. E. Conselheiro Jose d'Azevedo Castello de Branco.

Per *Annam*, for Saigon, Mr. de Boyer, R. R. P. Delignon and J. Albert; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sandel, Dr. P. Hill, Scur Marin Barros, Miss An ell, Messrs. H. L. Howson, and Garnero Lorenzo; for Marseilles, Messrs. P. Block, Perrean, P. Lemaire, P. Paula, Ronald, Munderper, J. Blot, J. Darre, J. Agie, and Giegul.

Per *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. A. C. Gutzler, Mrs. G. L. Hall, Mrs. V. A. C. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. N. Pope, Misses Helen Holt, Gresson, and Hawksley, Messrs. A. W. Parks, T. D. Wall, H. L. Cantley, A. J. Chuk, J. M. F. Lambooy, Robt. Fulton, A. J. Gwdrey, A. Ross, W. C. Brown, and L. Mutter.

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